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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



Circus in Town

The International All-Star Circus performs tonight at the Marianas High School gym.

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Thai Trouble

A rogue Thai general who aided anti-government protesters has died.

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Miss USA

A 24-year-old from Michigan takes the 2010 Miss USA title.

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Korean arrivals surge 31 percent in April 2010. **PAGE 2**
Regents split on approving consultant's 'excess' billing. **PAGE 3**

Govt to hire Rota nurses directly

» **Fitial signs local law to pay SEAS \$16,000**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Foreign nurses and other nonresident auxiliary staff at the Rota Health Center will soon have a new employer: the CNMI government.

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Lawmakers join Fitial in D.C.
for hearing on federalization

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Two senators and two members of the House of Representatives will be joining Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in Washington,

D.C. on Tuesday to testify before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Areas, Oceans, and Wildlife on the implementation of a law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control.

See LAWMAKERS on Page 4



A MERGER OF EQUALS

Continental Airlines and United Airlines announced on May 3, 2010, that they have agreed to combine in what is being billed as a "merger of equals." The combined company will create the world's biggest airline. The new airline, called United Airlines, will feature Continental's livery, logo and colors and will have 10 hubs, including in the four largest U.S. cities. The combined company will also continue to provide service to all of the communities that Continental and United currently serve, which encompasses 370 destinations in 59 countries.

CONTINENTAL AIRLINES

OPA and OAG want second Nogis contract worth \$40.5K scrapped

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor and

the Office of the Attorney General suggested that the Department of Lands and Natural Resources cease further negotiations with Felix R. Nogis on a proposed

sole-source contract worth \$40,500 as a logistics supervisor/coordinate for a Northern Islands terrestrial and marine survey project.

This is because of government job restrictions on individuals with local and federal convictions.

See OPA on Page 4



Candidates for the 2010 Liberation Queen strike a pose after the pinning ceremony yesterday at the Mayor's Office. Also in photo are the 2009 Liberation Queen Isabel Rosa Castro-Muna, left, and Mayor Donald Flores and wife Cecilia, first and second from right.

Eight compete for '10 LibDay Queen crown

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Eight young women will compete for the title of 2010 Liberation Queen, with the winner to be crowned at the Fourth of July celebrations.

Candidates vying for the tiara are Marianas High School ninth grader Angela B. Aldan, who is sponsored by

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Local

BOE posts \$20K travel costs in 8 months; surplus in FY09

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

From September 2009 to May 11, 2010, Board of Education members racked up a tab of \$20,206 for travel expenses, even as they posted a surplus of nearly \$30,000 in travel funds in FY 2009.

The board members' travel costs are tapped from the indirect cost account of the Public School System. These are payments made by federal agencies to PSS for the administrative processing of federal programs.

The indirect cost account provides the board \$50,000 in travel funds each fiscal year. Of the \$20,206 allocated for travel in the last eight months, a total of \$6,063 was actually spent, while \$14,143 represents encumbrances—or amounts

already allocated for specific travel purposes.

To date, the board has \$29,794 available for travel until the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30, 2010.

PSS records show that this FY 2010, two members from Tinian and Rota had the highest travel expenses in eight months because of their frequent trips for committee and board meetings on Saipan.

Board chair Lucia Blanco-Maratita from Tinian has a one-year travel allocation of \$12,468 while Rota's Tanya King has \$12,470.

Blanco-Maratita has already spent \$1,019 of that amount to date, while \$6,573 is already allocated for future trips. She has \$4,876 for the rest of the fiscal year.

As of last week, King recorded actual travel expenses of \$4,369. A total of \$5,783 of her

funds has already been appropriated for future trips. She still has \$2,318 to spend for travel until the end of the fiscal year.

Marylou Ada, who has total travel budget of \$8,167, has spent \$215 so far and appropriated \$588 of her funds. She still has \$7,364 to use for travel until September.

Both board members Herman Guerrero and Galvin Deleon Guerrero have yet to spend their travel budgets to date: Guerrero has \$8,167 while Deleon Guerrero has \$2,428.

Student representative Francine Babauta, who has a \$1,666 budget, recorded \$219 in expenses and \$138 in appropriated amount as of last week.

Since the expiration of Ambrose Bennett's term as public school representative in 2008, nobody has been appointed to

his post to date due to constitutional issues. This year, private school representative Scott Norman's term also expired but no appointment has been made.

Both representatives have travel budgets of \$1,666 each.

Surplus

In FY 2009, the board's total travel expenses reached \$46,498, which means a surplus of \$3,502. This was returned to the indirect cost account.

Of the \$50,000 budget for board travels in FY 2009, \$5,974 was used for the board's office supplies and operation.

The following are the travel expenses of board members last fiscal year: Blanco-Maratita, \$10,743; King, \$14,718; Ada, \$5,022; Guerrero, \$5,151; Deleon Guerrero, \$2,057; and student representative, \$2,833.

year, resulting in a drop in traffic from Narita year-on-year."

In the secondary market of China, four weekly charter flights from Shanghai and Guangzhou continued in April, bringing an 85-percent increase in arrivals at 3,483 compared to last April.

Russian arrivals were down 40 percent to 260 visitors. Also lower in April 2009 compared to the previous period were Guam at 1,376 visitors (-18 percent) and the United States at 662 visitors (-11 percent).

The NMI received one cruise ship with 1,936 passengers in April 2009 compared to one cruise ship with 1,159 in April 2010, bringing arrivals from Other Areas down 46 percent to 1,167.

Arrivals from the Philippines were up 24 percent to 201 visitors. (MVA)

Korean arrivals surge 31 percent in April 2010

April 2010 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands were down 6 percent compared to April 2009, with mixed results from the islands' primary markets of Japan and Korea.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands totaled 26,225 last month compared to 27,833 in April 2009. So far, the fiscal year total to date is 9 percent fewer than the same period in 2009.

Arrivals from Korea registered a robust 31-percent growth in April 2010 to 8,619 visitors over the same month of last year. This was the fifth straight month of double-digit growth in arrivals from Korea, mirroring the strong economic recovery of the country. There were more air seats available from Korea

to the CNMI in April as Asiana Airlines boosted the size of its aircraft from a 177-seat A321 to a 250-seat B767 on the daytime flight from Seoul starting April 11, providing an increase of 292 seats per week.

Arrivals from Japan were down 26 percent compared to April 2009 with 10,463 visitors. The MVA noted that this is the same average number of monthly visitors to the Northern Marianas as in 1986. In April 2010 the Northern Marianas lost two daily flights from two cities of Nagoya and Osaka, Japan. This suspension resulted in a 44-percent decline in air seats per day. The number of charter flights during Golden Week fell this year since JAL operated charter flights from Haneda to Saipan

during Golden Week 2009 but did not this year due to its financial difficulties and global reorganization, which has also led to its announced cancellation of Osaka-Guam night flights.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio added that price competition also played a factor in the lower numbers in April.

"According to the major travel agencies in the Tokyo market, there was severe price competition on package tours to the NMI in April 2009 and as a result, the number of visitors from the Tokyo area was strong although agents did not secure high profits," said Tenorio. "This year, the major travel agents have tended to avoid price competition and are not selling package tours to the NMI at such low prices as they did last

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A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

May 2010 Tourism Month Do you wear islandwear, and if so, why?



Juanita Ebilane, wearing téér (Carolinian skirt), with children from left, Charmaine, N.J., Rochelle, and Clyde.

"I'm from Wolei in the other islands of Yap. This is my clothes! I feel special about it, because it's our custom."



Carol Hosono, wearing mwár (Carolinian head lei), and husband John wearing Hawaiian print shirt.

"Yes, because I'm proud of who I am and my culture. And I want to show my kids and everyone else that there's nothing to it!"



Potence Fritz, wearing Palauan necklace.



This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Regents split on approving consultant's 'excess' billing

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two members of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents expressed strong opposition yesterday to approving a recommendation to pay nearly \$25,000 in "additional costs" billed by Cabot Mantanona, the consultant hired by the college to handle Dr. Carmen Fernandez's suspension.

Regents Charles Cepeda and Maria Malua Peters pointed out the need to fully review the original contract executed with the firm, which they said clearly states that services must not go beyond the \$25,000 provided in the contract, as concurred by the Attorney General's Office in February.

Cabot Mantanona billed the college a total of \$49,900.

The board's fiscal and legislative committee recommended paying the excess amount of \$24,900.

Committee chair Frank Rabauliman said his panel had found that the additional billing was a result of a lack of communication between the college and the firm.

The board hired the consultant for \$25,000 solely to handle Fernandez's issues. The amount was paid to the firm as soon as


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Fernandez's case was resolved in April. However, a new billing dated April 30 was sent to the college, saying it still owes the law firm nearly \$25,000 in unpaid services.

It was learned during yesterday's meeting that Cabot Mantanona did not offer any detailed justification for the excess charge.

Rabauliman's committee reasoned that since "benefits were realized and services were rendered" to the college, the board should approve the payment of the additional charge, with the caveat that Cabot Mantanona will later provide a detailed justification for the billing.

"The committee recommended to the board to accept this additional billing and instruct the interim president to ask the law firm [for] a detailed justification of the billing and try to negotiate the amount," Rabauliman said, adding that the interim president's communication will also serve as the formal notice to stop the work of Cabot Mantanona for NMC.

Both Malua Peter and Cepeda raised several issues with this reasoning and asked if there was a "done-deal" on the consultant's contract.

"We're not obligated to pay this additional charge because

this is beyond the contract we signed. They proceeded with their service without a new contract [or amendments to their contract]," Cepeda said.

Peter, for her part, also questioned the committee's recommendation to approve the billing.

"Are you proposing to the board to approve the amount before the justification [from the consultant]?" she asked Rabauliman.

She pointed out that once the board approves the proposal, a new RFP must be issued because it is board policy that any contract amounting to \$25,000 must adhere to procurement regulations.

The original Cabot Mantanona contract was an emer-

gency RFP.

Peter also questioned a provision in the original contract that she said gives the firm the impression that it could render services beyond the \$25,000 cost.

After over an hour of deliberation, the board decided to first obtain a more detailed breakdown of the legal services performed by Cabot Mantanona before any action is taken.

The college later issued a statement saying it is doing all it can to promptly resolve outstanding billings. It said that Cabot Mantanona no longer provides NMC with any legal work and the firm was not kept on retainer because the scope of work of their contract was very specific and the college considers their work completed.

"The NMC Board of Regents is extremely mindful of the costs that are associated with any litigation involving the institution" said Janet King, chairperson of the NMC Board

of Regents. "We will continue to be highly cautious of how our limited funds are expended to ensure that critical instructional programs and student services are not adversely affected."

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3.5 M *Tokyo Shimbun* readers to learn about Rota

Over 3.5 million readers of *Tokyo Shimbun* will soon have a chance to learn about the allure of the resort destination of Rota in the Northern Mariana Islands. Last week, May 5-9, the daily newspaper sent editor Keisuke Sawada to the island to prepare for an upcoming one-page feature on the famously "friendly" island.

Numerous scenic spots on the quiet, green island were visited, including the crystal clear Rota Swimming Hole, *As Matmos*, and *I Chenchon* Bird Sanctuary, home to numerous seabird and shore birds. Indigenous Chamorro

culture was highlighted with visits to Taga Latte Stone Quarry, where huge, ancient Chamorro columns and capstones are left half-excavated from the limestone. Also to be featured will be the Chamorro Cultural Village, the Summer Holiday Night Fiesta at Teteto Beach, kayaking, snorkeling, and the peace memorial on Mt. Sabana overlooking the entire island.

"This upcoming *Tokyo Shimbun* feature is very important coverage for Rota, as our goal is to attract more visitors on the KNT charter flights now flying direct seasonal service between

several cities in Japan and Rota," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Bruce Bateman. "The MVA was very pleased to assist KNT with facilitating this media FAM tour."

The estimated ad exposure value of the coverage is \$17,000. *Tokyo Shimbun* is published by The Chunichi Shimbun Coy. The group publishes newspapers under the brand name of The Tokyo Shimbun in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area and under The Chunichi Shimbun in the Nagoya Metropolitan Area.

Sawada stayed at Rota Resort & Country Club during the tour. (MVA)

Court gives defendant in wire fraud case more time to prepare for trial

The federal court has granted the request of a former co-owner of a remittance center who is facing wire fraud charges to have more time to prepare for her trial.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David Wiseman rescheduled Ana Maria V. Villegas' new trial to Aug. 23, 2010.

Villegas and her lawyer, Mark Scog-

gins, told the court on Thursday that they need more time to prepare.

"The court finds that the continuance is necessary in order to allow counsel for the defendant to properly prepare for trial," said Wiseman in a written order issued yesterday.

Villegas and Armilaine Salamat were charged in federal court for defrauding a Philippine bank of approximately

\$109,855.33.

According to the indictment, the scheme to defraud began in 2004 when Villegas, then a co-owner of Philippine Express Remittance, began passing checks drawn on insufficient funds at PNB Express. PNB was then a subsidiary of Philippine National Bank. At the time, Salamat was the manager of PNB Express. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

terrestrial/marine survey, and is not proposing to hire him as a regular employee.

DLNR said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is funding the proposed coordinator contract for Nogis. Federal biologists have started mobilizing for the survey, which is part of a U.S. military assessment of the Northern Islands.

Dela Cruz said OAG returned the proposed contract to DLNR Wednesday last week because of the government employment restrictions on convicted individuals.

Nogis's ability to communicate in both the Chamorro and Carolinian languages and his familiarity with the federal grants process were the main justifications that DLNR earlier provided to grant Nogis a sole-source contract.

Nogis is a Covenant Party member and a member of the Fitial-Inos Transition Review Committee. He is chairman of the Committee to Elect Joseph N. Camacho as CNMI Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives under the ruling Covenant Party.

The National Park Services earlier issued a citation to Nogis for allegedly leaving a large amount of trash during a recent party at the American Memorial Park in Garapan.

dated by PL 110-229.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, chair of the Subcommittee, also invited the Department of Homeland Security, Interior, and the Government Accountability Office to testify at the hearing.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that other than the hearing, Fitial "does not have any other scheduled meetings in the nation's capital."

The hearing will be held 5am Wednesday, Saipan time, or Tuesday afternoon in Washington, D.C.

The hearing comes after Sunday's massive motorcade and peaceful assembly of nonresident workers, their families and supporters on Saipan, showing their strong support for the Interior report.

The foreign workers also asked Congress to immediately act on the Interior report, granting improved immigration status to long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

It also asks Congress to "direct" Interior to "consult" with Fitial as man-

OPA

From Page 1

Nogis was convicted in 2004 on federal theft charges involving over \$15,000 worth of personal telephone calls to and from Palau and other places in 2000 when he was still executive director of the Workforce Investment Agency.

Public Auditor Michael Pai said yesterday that OPA advised DPL and DLNR about Nogis' "2004 federal conviction [which] arose from an OPA investigation and thus Mr. Nogis was barred from working for the Commonwealth government for a period of 10 years."

"OPA suggested that DPL take legal action to dissolve the contract and recover any payments made. OPA similarly advised DLNR and suggested that DLNR cease further contractual negotiations with Mr. Nogis," Pai told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comment.

But DLNR Secretary Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz said yesterday that he has not made a decision yet on whether to pursue or stop negotiating a contract with Nogis, doing business as FELNO Consulting Services.

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) and Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), who is chairman of the Senate Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies, left during the weekend, along with Fitial who left Saipan on Sunday.

Rep. Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), who is also a member of Fitial's working group on the U.S. Department of the Interior report, and House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) will also be in Washington, D.C.

Benavente left much earlier for Boise, Idaho, for family matters, but will go to Washington, D.C. for the oversight hearing.

While the oversight hearing is on the proposed visa waiver program

"That is a possibility, that the contract may not go through. As of now, it's not yet the case," Dela Cruz said.

Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Bautista separately said yesterday he had already cancelled a \$60,000 sole source contract with Nogis following advice from OPA and OAG on the restrictions on hiring individuals convicted of hiring federal and local laws.

DPL hired Nogis as a consultant for Northern Islands development projects.

OAG earlier signed off on DPL's proposed contract with Nogis, and OAG later on agreed with OPA's interpretation of the law that Nogis is prohibited from working in government because of his 2004 federal conviction.

"It's an honest oversight, an honest mistake. I was surprised, knowing that he got cleared the first time. In situations like this, as department secretary, I need to take corrective action," Bautista said, adding that DPL will later hire a consultant for the same job as Nogis. He said he asked Nogis to return the initial payment of \$10,000 made to him by DPL.

Dela Cruz, meanwhile, said DLNR is proposing a sole source contract with Nogis as a logistics supervisor/ coordinator for a Northern Islands

for Chinese and Russian tourists, Fitial and the lawmakers will be delivering the message that the CNMI government is opposed to the Interior report recommending long-term status for alien workers who have been legally residing in the CNMI for at least five years.

The governor and the lawmakers said that Interior did not consult with the governor on the report and recommendation prior to its submission to the U.S. Congress, as required by U.S. Public Law 110-229 or the federalization law.

The four lawmakers will be presenting House Joint Resolution 17-4, HS1 which the House and Senate adopted recently. The resolution "strongly opposes" Interior's report recommending granting permanent immigration status to long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

It also asks Congress to "direct" Interior to "consult" with Fitial as man-

EIGHT

From Page 1

the Northern Islands Mayor's Office; 17-year-old Sashana I. Atalig from Kagman High School; Yuri Marie E. Cepeda, an eighth grader from Hopwood Junior High School; and Rayna Anabeth D. Chong, 15, from Kagman High School.

Other candidates are Marla Helbert, a nursing student at Northern Marianas College; Josifynn Vivian Q. Rasa, 15, from Marianas High School; Zelma Alyssa D. Santos, 18; and Marie Kastel S. Tambiga of the University of Loyola.

Mayor Donald Flores and his wife, Cecilia Flores, conducted a pinning ceremony at the Mayor's Office yesterday to officially mark the women's participation in this year's Liberation Day Royal Court.

Also in attendance yesterday was 2009 Liberation Queen Isabel Rosa Castro-Muna, who told the candidates to enjoy every moment and have fun throughout the pageant.

Castro-Muna described her reign as truly memorable for bringing unique experiences to her life, including the opportunity to meet and interact with important people on the island as well as visitors from other destinations.

The upcoming Liberation Day festivities will run from June 4 through July 4 at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Sashana Atalig told *Saipan Tribune* she was inspired to join the contest by her friends, themselves former Liberation beauties.

"I want to be more involved with the community. And I was inspired by my friends who were both former Liberation queens. I want to give it a try for experience," she said.

For Yuri Marie Cepeda, her participa-

NURSES

From Page 1

The Fitial administration has started the process of directly hiring these nurses after their employer, Saipan Employment Agency Services, failed to pay them their salaries in the last four pay periods.

If the 11 nurses and auxiliary staff still do not get paid this Friday, it will be the fifth pay period that they haven't received their wages.

As of yesterday afternoon, Rota nurses had yet to see the results of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's signing into local law on Friday a bill giving \$16,000 for Rota nurses under SEAS.

The \$16,000 is only a fraction of the \$200,000 the government owes SEAS for the employment of the nonresident nurses at the government-run Rota Health Center.

Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (R-Rota) said yesterday the government is now working on having the nurses under direct contract with the government instead of through SEAS, a private employment agency.

"This is to avoid future non-payment of these nurses and to save government money through direct hiring instead of through SEAS. The mayor's office, the Rota Health Center and the Office of the Attorney General are now working to ensure the direct hiring of these nurses is in compliance with policies.

... The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee is also working on restoring funding to Rota Health Center nurses in Fiscal Year 2011," Ayuyu told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

tion is a way to move on with her life. Her father recently died and the 14-year-old believes joining the pageant will create some changes in her life.

Angela Aldan, 14, said she wants to experience the event and help the community.

Winners in the Liberation Day pageant are determined via the number of tickets they sell for the festivities. The bulk of the proceeds will help the municipality defray the cost of hosting the Liberation Day festivities.

Mayor Flores lauded the support and cooperation of the candidates and their families, majority of whom were present in yesterday's pinning ceremony.

Waiting for funding

Flores admitted yesterday that his \$45,000 funding request for the Liberation Day festivities has yet to be approved by the local delegation. However, he is confident of the Legislature's support for this important occasion, which draws thousands of spectators and guests every year.

For the moment, he said he is making do with the funding that's available. For example, he decided yesterday to tap the funding for one of the municipality's programs to pay for the construction materials for 40 booths. The amount will be returned or reimbursed once the delegation approves the needed funding.

"Time is the essence here and we have only two weeks to the festival date. We need to build the booths this week," he said.

Despite funding concerns, Flores assured that this year's festivities will still include traditional highlights such as the fireworks display, the Royal Court, the selection of the Liberation Day parade's grand marshals (chosen from the three islands), entertainment, children's carnival, and others.

The nurses interviewed yesterday said they prefer to have direct contract with the CNMI government rather than with SEAS.

They also cited a CNMI Department of Labor decision permanently barring and disqualifying SEAS from hiring, renewing or employing alien workers in the CNMI.

"But we have not signed any contract yet with the government. ... We do not want to continue working for SEAS because our salaries are always delayed. We haven't been paid for four pay periods, and we're hoping we will receive at least partial payment this week," one of the nurses said.

\$68,000 for Rota programs

Fitial signed House Local Bill 17-9, D1 on Friday to appropriate \$68,000 collected from poker and pachinko slot machine annual license fees for seven programs on Rota.

Of the amount, \$16,000 will pay for the 11 Rota Health Center nurses and auxiliary staff under SEAS.

Ayuyu, chairman of the Rota Legislative Delegation, said checks may be processed as early as today for the payment to SEAS.

The rest of the amount will be provided to the following programs: \$18,000 for the Rota Mayor's Office's operational expenses; \$14,000 for the Rota Municipal Scholarship Fund; \$13,500 for 15 Rota dialysis and terminally ill patients; \$3,500 for the stipend and housing allowance of Rota cadets under the Department of Public Safety; \$2,000 for the Rota youth recreational and sports facility; and \$1,000 for the Rota Joint Parents-Teachers Association.

Govt found liable for damages to terminated Cabinet member

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court yesterday found the CNMI government liable for damages and possible attorney's fees to Emerenciana Peter-Palican, who was terminated in 2006 as special assistant for Women's Affairs.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge John C. Coughenour was supposed to preside over the trial in Peter-Palican's lawsuit yesterday but, upon reviewing the case, he concluded that the issue of the Commonwealth's liability was definitively resolved by the court's March 7, 2008 order.

"The court's previous rulings are the law of the case. As such, the only issues remaining are damages and the possibility of attorney's fees," said Coughenour in a written order.

The judge met with the lawyers involved in the case yesterday morning and directed them to submit at a meeting today, Tuesday, their respective calculations on damages and entitlement to attorney's fees.

Once the court has that information, Coughenour said, he will make a decision and render a final judgment.

Coughenour noted that in the March 7, 2008 order, the federal court had ruled that the Special

Assistant for Women's Affairs may only be removed from the position "for cause."

Coughenour said the court further found that there was no genuine issue of material fact that Peter-Palican was removed without cause.

"Given those rulings, the issue of liability has been conclusively determined against the Commonwealth based on the Commonwealth Constitution, and the contract-based claims for relief have thus been rendered moot," the judge said.

Former governor Juan N. Bautista appointed Peter-Palican to the position of special assistant for Women's Affairs in 2002.

On Feb. 6, 2006, the office of then newly-elected governor Benigno R. Fitial notified Peter-Palican that her position was terminated as of Jan. 8, 2006, the date that Fitial's administration formally took place.

The notification, signed by then acting governor Timothy P. Villagomez, stated that her appointment automatically terminated when the Fitial administration took office and that, in any case, her employment contract specifically expired after four years.

Peter-Palican objected to the termination but vacated her position on April 15, 2006.

In June 2007, she sued the

CNMI government and Villagomez, claiming that her termination violated her rights to free speech and due process, as protected by the U.S. Constitution.

Man in 'ice' possession gets 11 months, 24 days in prison

The CNMI Superior Court has sentenced a man found in possession of methamphetamine or "ice" in 2008 to 11 months and 24 days in prison but ordered him to leave the CNMI within 90 days.

Associate Judge Perry Inos on Friday sentenced Zhou Fan Zhang to five years in prison, all suspended except for 11 months and 24 days, for illegal possession of a controlled substance.

With credit for the 11 months and 24 days he had already served in jail, Zhang was ordered to depart the CNMI within 90 days.

The judge required Zhang to pay a \$500 fine, \$25 court assessment fee plus probation fee.

She asserted causes of action for detrimental reliance and breach of contract. She demanded monetary damages and reinstatement of her appointment.

Zhang signed a plea agreement with the Office of the Attorney General. In exchange for pleading guilty to the 2008 case, the government agreed to dismiss the charges in Zhang's 2009 criminal case.

Zhang was found in possession of "ice" on Nov. 5, 2008, on Saipan.

The Local Drug Enforcement Task Force, with the assistance of Criminal Investigation Bureau detectives, arrested Zhang on board a vehicle along Airport Road.

Police said a confidential court was able to buy \$200 worth of "ice" from Zhang at a parking lot of a restaurant in Chalan Laulau on Oct. 30, 2008. (Ferdie de la Torre)



BOATING SAFETY WEEK

Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Division and U.S. Coast Guard Saipan Auxiliary officers pose for a group photo in front of their respective displays at Sugar Dock on Sunday, May 16, 2010. Sunday marked the beginning of the 2010 Safe Boating Week campaign for the CNMI. DPS Boating Safety and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary were on hand to answer questions and conduct vessel safety checks of required safety equipment and functionality for recreational boaters. They will also be at the Fishing Base on May 19 and Smiling Cove Marina on May 22, from 8am to 12pm. For more information on Safe Boating Week and general boating safety, contact DPS Boating Safety Division at 670-664-9180, the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment Saipan at 670-236-2969, or visit Coast Guard's boating safety web site at www.uscgboating.org.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fitial raises Rota poker fee by \$500

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial raised the annual poker license fee on Rota by \$500 in 2011 and by another \$500 in 2012, to help pay for the scholarship of Rota students and the retroactive pay of government employees.

Fitial signed into law on Friday a Rota local bill raising the

annual poker and pachinko slot machine local license fee from \$4,000 to \$4,500 beginning on Jan. 1, 2011.

The fees will further increase by \$500, or from \$4,500 to \$5,000 per machine, starting on Jan. 1, 2012.

House Local Bill 17-8, introduced by Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota), is now Rota Local Law 17-2.

Under the new local law, 50 percent of both the 2011 and 2012 increases in fees will be reserved for the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation.

"The newly convened Rota Municipal Scholarship Fund is in dire need of financial assistance for its program," Santos said in her bill.

The other 50 percent will be reserved for the compensation

of affected individuals under Public Law 7-31.

Rota residents affected by PL 7-31 or the Commonwealth Compensation Adjustment Act of 1991 have been waiting for more than 10 years for their compensation adjustment.

"...One way to fund the foregoing activities is to increase the annual local license fees for poker and pachinko slot machines which are a major source of revenue for (Rota)," Santos said in her bill.

Learn to Start Your Own Business

Get started by enrolling
Entrepreneur Class
beginning on May 24 at the
Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

Learn the secrets! This is a hands-on
course in which you will actually get to own
and operate a business. Class size limited.



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Call 235-6684 now!

4th Annual Firehouse OPEN HOUSE

May 22, 2010

9:00 am to 2:00 pm • Capital Hill Fire Station



Department of Public Safety

Office of EMS

Saipan: (670) 664-9135 • Tinian: (670) 433-9030 • Rota: (670) 532-9081

International All-Star Circus at MHS gym tonight

» 23-member crew on first-ever trip to Saipan

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 23-member crew of the

International All-Star Circus are on island for a two-day special show that starts tonight at the Marianas High School gymnasium.

Headed by owner, ringmaster and producer Cornell "Tuffy" Nicholas, the International All-Star Circus features 16 acts,

ranging from skip rope and balancing acts to magic and the amazing, modern-day "William Tell" crossbow act.

The circus will have two shows tonight, 4pm and 7pm, with each performance featuring approximately two hours of breathtaking, high-energy enter-

tainment for adults and children. On Wednesday, the shows will also be at 4pm and 7pm.

Acts in tonight's shows will include aerial acrobatics tricks and stunts, gravity-defying hand balance and tumbling, clowns, illusionary magic tricks, a strong man demonstration of strength and agility, skip rope, unicycle tricks and more.

Tickets prices are \$10 for children 12 years old and below, \$20 for adults, and \$30 for VIP seats.

"This is modern circus at its best," said Nicholas. "We want the community to experience the beauty, grace and strength of some of the best performers in the world."

Performers in the International All-Star Circus include professionals from Russia, Germany, the United States, Chile, Venezuela, Moldavia, Ukraine, and the Republic of Kazakhstan, including members of the famous Flying Wallenda family.

Families will find plenty of activities before the show and during intermission, including clown face painting, a Kid's Midway featuring bounce houses, a giant slide and obstacle course, toy and souvenir stands, concessions, photos with cartoon characters and circus artists, and autographs with the artists.

This is the first time the group has traveled to Saipan.

Nicholas said it has been his desire for many years to bring the show to Pacific communities. He said they have a permanent base in Maui and just recently performed in Guam.

Nicholas has lived his entire life in the circus. His father was a ringmaster with Ringling Brothers for 27 years and his mother, also with Ringling Brothers, was a polar bear trainer.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ross and Elisa Hartzell perform their rendition of a modern day "William Tell," a demonstration of ultimate trust, with both performers taking turns at being on the receiving end of speeding arrows. They hail from Sarasota, Florida.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Simon Arestov of Russia performs the Rolla Bolla, the ultimate in balance! He balances on rolling metal objects while wobbling his way higher and higher until you're sure he's about to fall.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

GUALO RAI, SPRING PLAZA, SAIPAN MP, 96950

TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

May 18, 2010

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Bo-Boy's Marine Sports	04/22/10	Banana Boat Operation	Garapan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (04/26/10)
2. Pacific Island Club Saipan	05/03/10	SLRm-2010-X-043	San Antonio	Permit Amendment	Approved (05/05/10)
3. Life Inc.	05/03/10	SMS-91-X-25 (Amend 2010)	Lower Base	Port & Industrial APC	Approved (05/06/10)
4. Asia Marine Sports	05/03/10	SPIm-2010-X-044	South Seaplane Ramp	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (05/17/10)
5. Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution	05/03/10	SLRm-2010-X-045	Garaapan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (05/06/10)
6. Stardust Corporation	05/06/10	CNMI/LRm-2010-X-046	Northern Islands	Shoreline APC	Approved (05/06/10)*
7. Mariano Falig	05/04/10	SSm-2010-X-047	Shoreline Areas	Lagoon & Reef APC	Under Review*
8. Good Day Coordinating Inc.	05/06/10	SLRm-2010-X-048	Tanapag Lagoon	Shoreline APC	Under Review*
9. Hanson Marianas Cement	05/13/10	SSm-2010-X-049	Shoreline Areas	Port & Industrial APC	Under Review*
		SPIm-2010-X-050	Lower Base		

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID ITB10-DOC-098	
CLOSING DATE: JUNE 10, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.	
"SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR POWERED LED SCHOOL ZONE AND PEDESTRIAN CROSS- WALK FLASHER/BEACON FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN"	
COPIES OF THE BID PACKAGE CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE QUICK PRINT AND POST FOR A NOMINAL REPRODUCTION FEE, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS ON OR AFTER MAY 10, 2010.	
A MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE CONFERENCE ROOM, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN ON TUESDAY, MAY 25TH, 2010 BEGINNING AT 10 AM.	
THIS IS AN AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 PROJECT AND AS SUCH ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED MUST BE MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.	
THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT. AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW.	
/S/ MICHAEL J. ADA SECRETARY OF COMMERCE	/S/ MARTIN C. SABLON SECRETARY OF DPW
/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON DIRECTOR, P&S	

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MAY 2010

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4:00PM - 7:00PM

WEDNESDAY 19TH
4:00PM - 7:00PM



MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL GYM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

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Hawaiian Sun

 **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**
DPS sets seatbelt, child seat checkpoints on Rota

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting Occupant Protection Child Restraint checkpoints on the island of Rota on May 25 and 27.

The May 25, 2010 OP/CR checkpoint will first be held along San Francisco Highway Songsong Village by the Pinatang Park, from 6am to about 7:15am. The second checkpoint will be conducted in District #4 across the Aquarius Bar & Grill, from 9am to about 10:15am.

On May 27, the checkpoint will be held along Sinapalo I Village by the San Isidro Church, from 6am to 7:15am.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location. Checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain.

In addition, police officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

This activity is part of DPS' efforts to ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected. For more information, contact Sgt. Jarrod T. Manglona or Officer Tito S. Hocog at 532-9433. (**DPS**)

MHS Japan Club sets Saturday lunch sale

The 2010 Marianas High School Japan Club will be having a lunch sale this Saturday, May 22. The Club is offering fried chicken, barbecued ribs, coco, red rice and a drink for the price of \$5. Proceeds will go toward the class trip to Tokyo in June.

For orders or more information contact Jim Tuttle at jimbotuttle@yahoo.com or 237-3268. The MHS Japan Club would like to thank you for your kind assistance in helping their MHS students reach their dream of going to Japan.

MHS Parent Literacy Night

The Marianas High School is going to have a Parent Literacy Night on May 26, 2010, from 6pm to 7pm. This event will be hosted by the Math Department. Refreshments will be served. There will be lots of informational activities, students presenters, and take home arts and crafts. (**MHS**)

New water hours for 6 villages

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has released new water service



THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the Saipan Tribune, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.



If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.



The person in last week's column was identified as Escolastica Tudela Cabrera. Photo was taken in 1957. Identified by Jennifer Aguon, Angie C. Sablan, Bernie C. Aldan, Myra Cabrera, Bedu Diaz and Laila Olopai.

hours for Capital Hill, Chalan Galaide, Wireless Ridge, Talafofo, Tapochau and I Denni areas in connections with the resealing of the Capital Hill million-gallon tank.

The new water hours are:

- Capital Hill 1200-1300 Block/Homestead/Tapochau/Chalan Galaide: 6am-12pm
- 1300 Block/Wireless Ridge/Talafofo/I Denni: 5pm-6am

The new water service hours are necessary to allow the contractor to complete the waterproofing of the Capital Hill million-gallon concrete storage tank. The work is scheduled to be completed by Aug. 10. The sealant will protect the concrete tank as well as prevent contamination of the water supply.

Residents in these areas are therefore advised to expect shorter water hours during this construction period. (**PR**)

NMC Graduation 2010 important dates

The Northern Marianas College is inviting all community members to its 30th Commencement Exercise on Saturday, May 22, 2010, at 4pm at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. The college is also reminding all graduates to note the following dates:

- May 20, 6pm: Graduation Mass at Chalan Kanoa Cathedral. Graduates must arrive by 5:30pm.
- May 21, 3pm: Graduation rehearsal for ALL graduates at MHS Gymnasium
- May 22, 4pm: Commencement Exercise. Graduates must arrive no later than 3:30pm. (**NMC**)

USCIS offers Webinars for the CNMI Form I-9

The Verification Office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is offering a series of one hour Webinars on the CNMI Form I-9 beginning May 20, 2010, from 8am to 9:15am local time. The Webinar is a live meeting that takes place over the Internet.

The meeting includes a presentation that gives attendees the opportunity to learn about the CNMI Form I-9. The CNMI Form I-9 is only for use in the CNMI and is required for all new hires in the Commonwealth since Nov. 28, 2009. To register for one of the Webinars, go to the Sign Up for a Webinar page.

Those who need more information or assistance can contact their customer service representative Tuesday through Saturday from 4am to 1pm local time by dialing 1-888-464-4218. To learn more about the federalization of immigration law in the CNMI, go to www.uscis.gov/cnmi. (**USCIS**)

Educational assistance program deadlines

- Deadline for Application: July 1st 2010
- Deadline for supporting documents: September 30th 2010 PI 14-37 Honors Scholarship Program Deadlines
- Who may apply? High school graduates of 2010
- Deadline for application AND supporting documents: June 30th 2010
- Application and supporting documents must be received by the CNMI Scholarship Office on or before June 30, 2010.

Visit www.cnmischolarship.com to download application and for more information. (**PR**)

SSHA registration schedule

Saipan Southern School is now accepting registration for all incoming 9th grade students from Hopwood Junior High School and any other public or private school, for SY 2010-2011. Parents are encouraged to register early to allow students better selection in their class schedule. Registration forms may be picked up during regular school hours, 7:30am-4:30pm. All new incoming students must fill out and turn in a registration form. Hopwood 8th grade students who were evaluated in March by an SSHA counselor are not automatically enrolled; they must fill out a registration form. Orientation for all new students will be held sometime toward the end of August, the date to be announced. (**PR**)

Art contest for grade school students

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is sponsoring an art contest for grade school students concerning the impacts of marine debris on coastal waters. The contest is targeted for grade school students from K-4 through 5 and 8 from the U.S. states and all its territories. All recognized public, private, and home schools are encouraged to participate. This is a great way to get the children involved in marine debris and its effect on coastal waters.

Entries (entry form and artwork) should be mailed to:

Art Contest
ATTN: Megan Forbes
NOAA Marine Debris Program
1305 East-West Highway
SSMC4, 10th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

If you have any questions, contact Carey Morishige at Carey.Morishige@noaa.gov, call (808) 397-2651 Ext. 256, or visit www.marinedebris.noaa.gov. (**PR**)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 18, 1999

PSS taps Bank of Hawaii for \$16M bond

A resolution was approved recently by the Board of Education naming Bank of Hawaii as the trustee bank for the \$16 million bond for the construction of several projects of the Public School System. Although the resolution offers the flexibility for the selection of the trustee bank in the future, the Bank of Hawaii offers reliable electronic transfers of the payments for the bondholders and the tracking of funds for the PSS contracts. According to Federal Programs Officer Tim Thornburgh, the choice considered the reliable service it offers to PSS with a number of its federal grants being handled by the bank.

PSS sends student to Guam for SpEd

In the absence of licensed interpreters on Saipan, the Special Education program of the Public School System has offered to send students to Guam who need the service. According to Special Education Program Coordinator Franklin R. Perez, two high school students have hearing disability and parents have been notified about the offer. Although, a licensed interpreter was recently hired by PSS, the program would still need to collaborate with the University of Guam for the future training of its pool of deaf capable instructors. Perez said the parents of one student has agreed to the offer, while the other has opted to complete the child's secondary education in the CNMI.

May 18, 2000

Bill seeks compensation for toxic waste exposure

A bill under review in the House of Representatives will allow island residents who have been exposed to toxic substances beyond the permissible federal level to seek compensation from manufacturers and handlers responsible for bringing the poisonous chemicals here. Offered by Rep. Dino M. Jones, chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, HB 12-177 comes in the wake of the planned class action suit against federal agencies and the manufacturers of the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), which has contaminated the village of Tanapag on Saipan. "There is no CNMI law in the book right now that addresses the need to seek compensation for damages resulting from toxic chemicals' exposure," he said.

Saipan mayor to settle LibDay debts

The Saipan Mayor's Office will be able to settle within the week its over \$40,000 debt incurred from the 1999 Liberation Day Celebration with the reprogramming of funds originally set aside for operations. According to Mayor Jose C. Sablan, the money will come from the nearly half-a-million dollars appropriated for the Saipan Mayor's Office to help improve the delivery of services to the community from the poker license fees collection. He said the \$5,000 debt his office owes to Joeten Motor Co. Inc. for the Senta car given away as grand prize during the previous year's Liberation Day Celebration will be paid immediately as soon as the governor signs the reprogramming of funds.

May 18, 2001

Panel to address concerns by telecom commissioners

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigation will map out mechanism to address concerns raised by members of the newly-created CNMI Telecommunications Commission. In an interview with reporters, Committee Chair Joaquin Adriano said the panel will confirm the appointment of two other Tinian nominees in the next Senate session. Mr. Adriano said minor amendments were made on the proposed requirements and qualifications that should be met by nominees. Included in the requirement is a provision that prohibits the nomination of any government employee to the commission.

MVA to get 100 pct. of aviation fuel tax

With visitor arrivals to the Commonwealth slumping to a fiscal year low last month, the Marianas Visitors Authority is finally getting much needed help. This, after the Legislature passed House Bill 12-359, appropriating 100 percent of tax collected from aviation fuel to the tourism authority's marketing and promotional activities to Taiwan and other emerging markets. HB 12-359 was introduced by House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial and was aimed at amending 4CMC Section 1803 by adding a new subsection hoped to revitalize the declining tourism sector. Under the bill, MVA would get \$300,000 in FY 2000 and another \$300,000 in FY 20001.

'Labor policy on transfer extensions completely unfair, confusing'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has found the Department of Labor's policy of extending the transfer periods for alien workers completely unfair and confusing.

Although no law governs the granting or denying of extensions periods, Associate Judge David A. Wiseman said it would behoove Labor to set up guidelines regarding extension periods, since the granting of those extensions has become common policy with Labor.

Wiseman made these observations in his order reversing a Labor hearing officer's decision to deny the request for more time to transfer filed by three former garment factory workers.

Wiseman said the three petitioners—Kannika Juantak-hob, Kraisorn Chaijaroen, and Nutchanat Nambunla, all Thai nationals—submitted job extensions together and their requests were denied.

"The hearing officer appeared to have based his decision on petitioners' written submissions alone and failed to provide petitioners an opportunity to explain their situation prior to denying their request," the judge said.

Wiseman said Labor should have done more fact-finding to inquire into the credibility of the three petitioners' claims, rather than denying those claims based

simply on their uniformity.

The three Thai nationals became jobless after ONWEL closed down in August 2008. On Sept. 26, 2008, they submitted to Labor a joint request for additional time to transfer. It was granted.

On Nov. 21, 2008, the workers each submitted separate but identical requests for even more time to look for jobs. The hearing officer denied the requests. They appealed, but the Labor Secretary denied their appeals.

The workers decided to sue Labor.

Through counsel Joseph Horey, the three argued, among other things, that their procedural and due process rights were violated because they were not given meaningful notice nor meaningful opportunity to be heard prior to their denial.

Labor, through assistant attorney general Eli Golob, said that Labor's actions should be affirmed because the three have already been given two 30-day extensions periods. He said the three failed to find new jobs and are thus not legally entitled to any further transfers.

In his order, Wiseman finds Labor acting in an unfair manner, exercising its power in an irrational and inconsistent manner by granting some extensions but failing to grant the same to others, with no adequate basis.

Wiseman said Labor's policy

of extending transfer periods is being arbitrarily administered since some individuals receive the benefit of the extension while others do not, based on the same facts and circumstances.

"Something is arbitrary and capricious if it is contingent solely upon one's discretion and is unreasonable or unsupported

by any evidence, as is the case here," the judge said.

In addition, Wiseman noted, Labor has not published any standards for an applicant to view before applying for an extension.

"This is completely unfair and leaves the applicant worker in a state of confusion, not knowing what measures must be under-

taken in order to receive an extension," he said.

The judge said the standards cited by Labor in their orders are internally contradictory.

"Even worse is the fact that other applicants similarly situated were uniformly granted extensions, but petitioners were not," he said.

Wiseman said Labor has provided no rational basis for the discrepancy between the applicants whose extensions were granted and that of the petitioners, besides the fact that the three petitioners used the same form when submitting their requests.

He said Labor made no additional investigation to uncover the truth and veracity of the petitioners' claims before denying their extension.

Marianas Eye Institute staff learns life saving techniques



Marianas Eye Institute staff poses with Red Cross instructor Lucio Aldan, kneeling right, after completing two American Red Cross training courses.

The staff of Marianas Eye Institute just completed two American Red Cross training courses in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automated External Defibrillation. The team of 16 passed the course under the tutelage of Red Cross instructor Lucio Aldan. This crucial training prepares them in lifesaving techniques and emergency equipment usage.

The annual training is just part of the continuous training program Marianas Eye Institute provides its staff. Marianas Eye Institute has its Marianas Eye "University," a training system for its staff that allows them to receive multiple nationally recognized certifications related to eye care.

Marianas Eye Institute boasts of the CNMI's only Certified Ophthalmic Assistants with several staff members currently preparing to take the American Board of Opticianry exam.

"Our mission, 'Excellence with Love,' starts with training local talent to learn skills that not only makes them excellent at their job, but that allows them to take the skills with them, anywhere they may go," said chief executive officer Russ Quinn.

CPR has been a staple of Red Cross for years, and many companies islandwide have their staff learning these lifesaving skills. A fairly new offering has been the Automated External Defibrillator training that prepares responders to restart someone's heart. Marianas Eye Institute has an AED. (MEI)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-046

"GENERAL REPAIR WORKS AT TANAPAG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **General Repair Works at Tanapag Elementary School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on May 11, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of \$61.95.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, "BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS". Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, "Competitive Sealed Bidding".

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 28, 2010, at 3:30 p.m., local time, at the Tanapag Elementary School Library in Tanapag, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than June 2, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-046, and submitted with one (1) original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:30 a.m., local time, June 7, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation for bid PSS-IFB-10-051

"FIVE(5) PARATRANSIT VANS FOR PSS SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase of Five (5) Paratransit Vans for PSS Special Education Program. The Scope of Work is available beginning May 11, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950.

Questions shall be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement Officer via fax at (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: robert.florian@cnmipss.org

Bids must be placed in a sealed envelope marked "IFB 10-051" containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 2, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.**, at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

This purchase is funded by a Grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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Oil industry's debt to America

By JACK GERARD
AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE

The tragic rig accident in the Gulf of Mexico, which took the lives of 11 offshore workers, was a terrible blow to their families and their communities. The thoughts and prayers of all of us in the oil and natural gas industry go out to everyone touched by the disaster. We know the lives lost can never be recovered and that our neighbors along the Gulf coast continue to suffer.

Advanced technologies, redundant safety systems, strict procedures and crews mindful and repeatedly drilled in the importance of safe operations should have prevented this tragedy. But, for reasons still unknown, and despite a strong record of safe and reliable production, the accident happened. And, as an industry, we are facing that reality and getting on with the hard work of restoring the gulf and making our operations even safer. We owe that to the nation that has placed its trust in us to responsibly develop our oil and natural gas resources.

Our first priority is to stop the leak that still threatens gulf communities. BP and the Coast Guard, along with support from many in the industry and thousands of volunteers, have worked tirelessly to do this, and they will continue until they get the job done. Second, we must continue to clean up the oil and protect the Gulf Coast, where millions of Americans live and work. And third, we must find out the causes of the accident and do what is needed to prevent it from happening again.

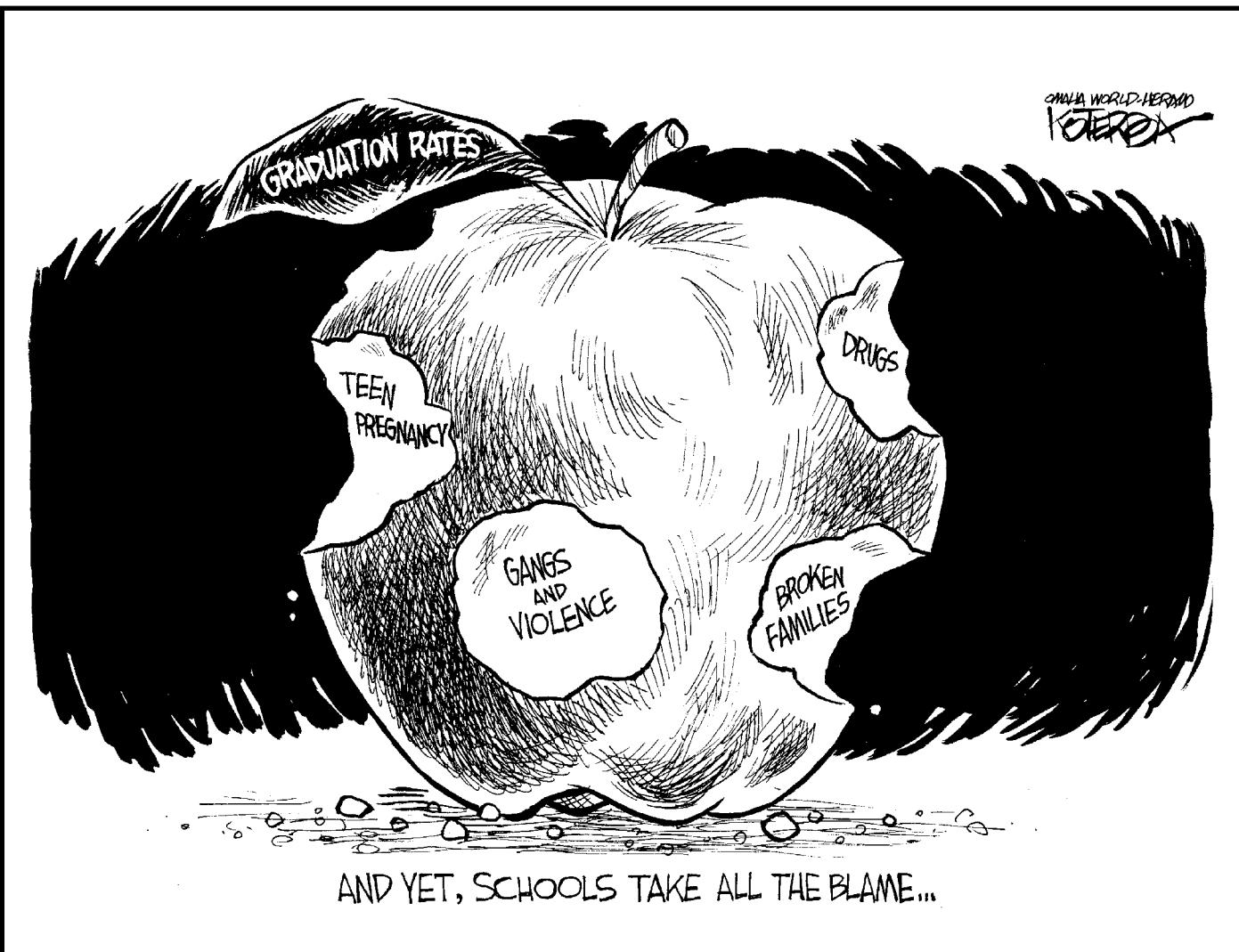
We are putting tremendous resources into each of these critical jobs. BP is working simultaneously on several strategies to stop the leak. The best scientists and experts are trying every possible approach. Industry response agencies have deployed 1.5 million feet of boom to help protect the coasts. Hundreds of thousands of gallons of dispersant have been applied to break up the oil. And more than 500 vessels are working to get the oil out of the water whether by skimming it, absorbing it or burning it. About 13,000 people from industry and government are involved in the response effort with more than 2,500 volunteers also trained and on the scene.

BP has said it is committed to paying all necessary cleanup costs and all legitimate claims for other loss and damages caused by the spill. It has provided \$100 million to the gulf states to assist their response efforts and already paid hundreds of claims.

Meanwhile, the government, working with the industry, has started gathering information to help determine the causes of the accident. And industry has two task forces staffed with its best and brightest examining how to improve our technology and operations to cut the risks of a future accident.

This was an unprecedented occurrence, and it is an unprecedented industry response. It has to be. America relies on oil and natural gas and the economic growth and job creation they fuel. Producing energy our nation needs is our job. Producing it safely is and will continue to be our most important obligation.

Jack Gerard is president and CEO of the American Petroleum Institute, the national trade association that represents the oil and natural gas industry.



An open letter to all people of the CNMI

By maia
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: maia is a writer/philosopher/mentor, and founder of The Matera Community, Helping-Hands Books & Donation Center, My Sister's Keeper (shelter for abused women), The P.A.X. Center, Tinian. Her Web site is www.saysmom.com.

As many of you may know, I have been running a free books program and donation center on Tinian, for going on five years now, all by myself and with no official support whatsoever, even though it serves the needs of all the people on our island. Since all I do is for free, and my sole income is social security, it has not been easy, especially now that I must pay rent for the space I use for the "Helping-Hands Books & Donation Center." Were it not for the incredible generosity of the local couple who provided rent-free space for three and a half years, there never would have been one. That, and the occasional donations of merchandise from a few local businesses are what have allowed me to provide free clothing, shoes, household items and books to all the in-need folks here, in addition to holding an annual "Christmas-Gift-Away" event, for the most needy families, so they can have at least one nice gift for each child.

The wonderful thing about the HHC (Helping-Hands Center) is that all of the needed items that people find here are donated by their own neighbors, since I tell all who come that if they bring me anything they find in their homes that they aren't using, I'll give it to someone who needs it. So, this is a community-supported 'help thy neighbor' project that can be duplicated anywhere at all where there are people in need. Of the books I give away, though 90 percent do come from kind people all over the world, who help me help Tinian in return for me helping them with writing, the other 10 percent also come from our own people sharing with each other. Now, isn't that how we all wish our entire world would work?

Of course it is. To most of us, anyway. Which brings me to the reason I'm writing this letter to all of you. In the years I have been living here and doing what I can to be useful, not only have my many appeals for official support of the Donation Center; a shelter for abused women I have planned and ready to be implemented; and plan for establishing an international Peace Center on Tinian that would provide a solid and permanent economic base been constantly ignored, but so have my offers of help in other areas, where I could really be of major assistance in making the lives of all here better, safer, and healthier.

I'm speaking now of the seriously troubled Tinian Health Center. My background in the health and medical field has allowed me to be able to assess its problems and map out a plan to address them and bring what is now a facility that would be condemned and razed, if

in the U.S., up to at least minimum standards of health and safety. To that end, over the past two years, I have done on-site inspections, prepared and submitted numerous reports, assessments, operations protocols and such, all of which have been *ignored* by those who were in the recent past and now currently are officially in charge of the facility and thus responsible for its shameful condition.

All of this was done *pro bono*, while officials paid out almost \$60,000 to a stateside consultant whose reports didn't cover even a tenth of what my free ones have. In addition, my offer of free services as a consultant, to help them upgrade the THC facility and its services to the sick and injured of our island has also been ignored. Not even been acknowledged! Now, how busy can a mayor, or a clinic director be, that you/they can't even manage a simple, courteous, "Thanks, but 'no thanks'!"? And can you think of any logical reason why you/they would turn down such an offer, anyway, when things are in such bad shape budget-wise?

I invite anyone who reads this letter to contact me for copies of the reports, et al., that I've been dropping into the black hole of officialdom for so long. It's time that the people who depend on THC for their care when needed, and on their elected officials who appoint its director, to read what those who are in a position to *do* something about the mess *don't bother to*. Learn about all the disgustingly unsafe/unhealthy conditions there that could be so easily corrected, if anyone in charge would just take time to sit down with me and discuss my reports and proposed 'cures' instead of saying, "I'll get back to you on it," but then never do and/or never even say *that* much. Probably never having read them thoroughly...or at all!

Yes, I'm angry. Wouldn't you be? Shouldn't you be? I'm addressing all the people of Tinian and CNMI in this part of my letter now, not your elected/appointed officials, who seem to prefer that I stay invisible and unheard. I have detailed plans not only for improving our only health facility on Tinian, but for establishing donation centers such as I've been running so successfully here, on both Saipan and Rota, as well as for shelters for abused women and their children that can help break the cycle of abuse so prevalent here and everywhere, and for a Peace Center of global renown that would bring both money and prestige to our islands, without the destructive downsides that gaming and the military bring with them.

Those plans too, are available to any of you who read this and want to see what CNMI *can* be, versus what it is now. If enough of you care enough and need/want positive change enough, we may be able to bring it about together, *in spite* of the officialdom that seems to prefer remaining blind, deaf, and dumb, rather than accept the free gift of sight and help I've been offering in vain. I can be reached at maia3maia@hotmail.com or (670) 433-9993 any day of the week, from 8am to 6pm.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

IN A NUTSHELL

A brief look at sovereignty, the Covenant, self-government, and the economy

Second of a five-part series

One cannot help but wonder, after the fact, that the rush for agreement to establish a political union with the U.S. may have been dictated principally by both military expediency, (the U.S. government is responsible for defense of the CNMI) and, the Commonwealth's own anxiousness to terminate what, at the time of negotiations, amounted to a state of political limbo for the islands.

I suspect within some quarters in the Commonwealth there is still some degree of uncertainty as to the relationship of the CNMI with the United States, specifically, whether certain provisions of the U.S. Constitution apply in the NMI. The issue centers around Article IV, Section 3 C-1.2 of the U.S. Constitution (Territorial Clause) and its application in the Commonwealth which would, in effect, give the U.S. Congress the right to act as the federal government and also the equivalent of the local legislature, thus abrogating the Commonwealth's right of self-government. This would conflict with Section 103 of the Covenant which guarantees the Commonwealth the right of self-government over local and internal affairs.

It is the contention of some residents in the CNMI that the North-

ern Marianas did not become a Commonwealth as a result of the will of Congress through enactment of law, but by means of negotiation within the Trusteeship Agreement between the United States and the United Nations. The Trusteeship Agreement did not permit the United States to acquire territory or possessions since it was considered a trustee rather than sovereign and, as such, negotiated with the Northern Marianas for Commonwealth status.

The drafting committee on the Covenant stated in section 104 of their report to the Marianas Political Status Commission the following: "Reference to the federal power mentioned in this section is not intended to derogate from the sovereign vested in the United States by section 101 or the legislative power vested in the United States by section 105." This latter section reads, "It is intended that prior to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement the consent of the Northern Mariana Islands envisaged by this section may not be given without the consent of the popularly elected legislature. It is understood that the authority of the United States under this section will be exercised through, among other provisions of the United States Constitution, Article IV section 3, clause 2" (the so-called Territorial Clause). This section of the U.S. Constitution states: "The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations re-

By WILLIAM H. STEWART

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.



specting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or any particular state."

With respect to Section 105 of the Covenant, the report of the joint Marianas - United States Drafting Committee for the Covenant¹ states that the following was agreed upon on Feb. 15, 1975. "It is understood that the authority of the United States under this Section (105) will be exercised through, among other provisions of the United States Constitution, Article IV, Section 3, clause 2." The question posed between the Covenant and the U.S. Constitution as to where power rests seems to represent something of a conundrum for many at the present time.

In April 1990, during a meeting with the Commonwealth's "902 consultation team," representatives of the federal government presented for the first time the U.S. government's position that the Territorial Clause of the U.S. Constitution gives the U.S. Congress full authority in the CNMI. The U.S. position being that if the Territorial Clause did not apply there would be no mechanism for federal involvement in the Commonwealth. Since this position presents somewhat of an impasse between the two entities a court decision may be necessary to determine whether or not this important clause in the U.S. Constitution applies to the Northern Marianas.

Some in the CNMI interpret internal self-government as impunity from federal interference even to the extent of the federal appeals court process as well as immunity from U.S. government audits related to the expenditure of federal funds in the Northern Marianas. Such U.S. government activity has been viewed as an infringement on the Commonwealth's concept of self-government, a term not well defined in the Covenant.

On July 24, 1992 the U.S. District Court for the Northern Marianas ruled that "the CNMI is not a sovereign nation, nor is it a sovereign freely associated state. Those choices were available to the CNMI but resoundingly rejected. The CNMI freely and voluntarily, in the exercise of self-determination of its people by a 78.8 percent vote on June 17, 1975, ceded their sovereignty to the United States of America in Covenant section 101, effective November 3, 1986".² This writer does not know if this decision was ever reviewed by the United States Ninth Circuit Appellate Court in San Francisco.

To be continued.

¹Marcuse, Herman, U.S. Dept. of Justice, Sept., 1976, Covenant To Establish A Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (PL 94-241), Basic Document and Annotations.

²United States of America ex rel. James R. Richards, Inspector General, U. S. Department of Interior v. Lorenzo De Leon Guerrero, Governor.

Note: One of the recognized authorities on the Covenant, Howard Willens, in his definitive book, "Honorable Accord" (p. 90), wrote: "The tentative agreements reached at the second round (of negotiations) regarding political status were summarized in the final joint communique stating (in pertinent part) "the future Marianas government would exercise a maximum amount of self-government consistent with relevant portions of the United States Constitution and federal law." This joint communique dated June 4, 1973 was issued by Edward DLG Pangelinan, chairman, Marianas Political Status Commission, and U.S. Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, Personal Representative of the President of the United States. It stated: "Sovereignty over the Marianas, would be vested in the United States."

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Immigration Forum column of lawyers Bruce Mailman and Maya Kara will not be available this week. It will continue publication next Tuesday, May 25, 2010.

Letters to the Editor

What are CUC and the administration trying to prove

It seems that every time I pick up a newspaper there is an article about how CUC want to raise the rates on water, power or sewer. Just how much do they think we can afford to pay? If they could provide quality service I might expect to pay higher rates for it. If they would take the money that they are paying for all these consulting firms and apply it to improve the system they might get some place.

The truth of the matter is that they have no idea of how to run the utility company. Running a utility company is like no other job in the world. You need leaders who understand power generation and distribution, water exploration and drilling distribution and water management. We have no such people in the system at this time.

Over the past several years there have been several honest businesses come to the island and offer to help. They had good plans and were willing to work with the island government. But they were honest companies and would not lay out gratuities to the local administration so they were not allowed to do business here. So here we are being overcharged for utilities. But there is an answer, that is to privatize the power section of CUC. Not the way the administration wants to. Let's not give it to some off-island company. My idea

We in the middle...

While others assume a bad outcome from the improved status for aliens, we who are in the middle are wondering what to say to both sides.

If I were to stand on the CNMI side, I would say please do more research in the community and look at the Chamorros and Carolinians' point of view. The people of the CNMI have suffered a great deal of loss and abuse throughout history. We praise the United States of America for giving us freedom of speech and all the aid given to us. But we need to communicate more so they would also see our side.

And to the alien workers, we thank you for contributing your professional services and many skills training to the people of the CNMI because without you, we wouldn't have enough manpower to build the CNMI economy.

Right now, our vision should be a wish to see that justice prevail for both aliens and CNMI residents. There are some of us out here who are willing to work with both the United States and the alien workers that we need to help us provide services to our people. So, think about it and decide for a better future.

Winnie Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

is for the local residents to form a co-op and buy CUC power from the government. It will not be easy but when was the last time that something important came to the people that is easy? The benefits will be for the residents of the island. Once we get it back on its feet, it will start making money and the money will be paid to the shareholders as dividends. There is another benefit as soon as we can make it a co-op utility. There are a lot federal grants for alternative power. It will not be easy and it will not happen overnight. But if we all work together we can get it done and get the price of power down to where we can all afford it.

I am going to write more letters on this subject. I want you, the residents of the island, to give some serious thought to what I am saying then sometime in July I would like to have a public meeting and see how many residents want to take this step to make Saipan a better place for their families.

Several years ago there was a move to mine the volcanic ash on Pagan. If I was a government worker who just took a pay cut, I would be asking the Legislature what is going on. There is enough money to be made by mining the ash to pay off the deficit, the Retirement Fund and have some left over. They could even pay all the new hires of the governor without cutting others wages. So what are waiting for? Maybe now, just maybe, the governor has other plans for the money.

As usual I must make it clear that the ideas that I am putting out are mine and mine alone. But please take the time to read them and then make up your own mind as to what is right and what is wrong.

Frederick Prosser
As Matuia, Saipan

Injustice?

Bottom line is the U.S. Congress passed Public Law 110-229, taking control of our immigration system. That law states clearly that *consultations* shall be made by and between the Secretary of State, Secretary of Homeland Security, Department of the Interior and the CNMI governor, not the other way around. Without proper consultation and review of the recommendations submitted by the Department of the Interior to Congress, I ask this: Where is the *justice* for our indigenous people? Members of Congress, if you are reading this, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island cannot continue to be treated in such a manner and a serious inquiry or investigation must be made with Interior as to why the concentration of foreign temporary guest workers in our homeland are of special interest and priority, ignoring its U.S. citizens' concerns?

Taking control of our immigration system was justice, for it corrected the many flaws and loopholes and ended human smuggling, exploitation, and Labor abuses. The Interior's current motives and intentions are highly questionable and are unjust to our cultural and social well-being as indigenous people of the land.

The CNMI is not a stepping stone to one's personal agenda such as asking for outright citizenship or permanent residency.

Gregorio Cruz
President, Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.

▲ 89° ▼ 79°

▲ 89° ▼ 79°

▲ 89° ▼ 79°

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▲ 89° ▼ 79°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 86	▼ 79
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88	▼ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 88	▼ 77
Chuuk	Sunny	▲ 83	▼ 77
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲ 88	▼ 76
Kosrae	Rain	▲ 89	▼ 80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 82	▼ 80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 64	▼ 56
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 86	▼ 57
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83	▼ 71
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 85	▼ 74
London	Showers	▲ 68	▼ 52
Los Angeles	Showers	▲ 66	▼ 55
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 95	▼ 79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68	▼ 45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 86	▼ 76
New York	Showers	▲ 64	▼ 53
Osaka	Showers	▲ 68	▼ 63
Paris	Showers	▲ 65	▼ 47
Pusan	Showers	▲ 68	▼ 60
Rome	Showers	▲ 67	▼ 53
Salem	Showers	▲ 63	▼ 51
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 54	▼ 51
Seoul	Showers	▲ 73	▼ 57
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲ 71	▼ 64
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 59	▼ 55

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:53 AM	Today	Low Tide: 1.3 Feet
9:23 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet
5:00 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:48 AM	6:39 PM	Today	9:25 AM	10:42 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM	Wednesday	10:26 AM	11:31 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM	Thursday	11:26 AM	
Friday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM	Friday	12:23 PM	12:17 AM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM	Saturday	1:20 PM	1:00 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 7, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM				GUAM-ROTA (ROP)			
C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5	C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily	C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily	DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily	DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
0Z608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	0Z607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z604	2:20am	6:10am	1	0Z605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
0Z604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	0Z603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
CZ3008</							



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-047

“GENERAL REPAIR WORKS AT OLEAI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL”

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **General Repair Works at Oleai Elementary School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on May 11, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of \$62.05.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, “BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS”. Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, “Competitive Sealed Bidding”.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 28, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the Oleai Elementary School Library in Oleai, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than June 2, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-047, and submitted with one (1) original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 11:00 a.m., local time, June 7, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with “Buy America” Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-048

“GENERAL REPAIR WORKS AT GARAPAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL”

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **General Repair Works at Garapan Elementary School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on May 11, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of \$61.25.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, “BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS”. Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, “Competitive Sealed Bidding”.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 28, 2010, at 1:00 p.m., local time, at the Garapan Elementary School Library in Garapan, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than June 2, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-048, and submitted with one (1) original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m., local time, June 7, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 3rd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with “Buy America” Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-049

“GENERAL REPAIR WORKS AT KAGMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL”

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **General Repair Works at Kagman Elementary School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on May 11, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of \$47.50.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, “BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS”. Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, “Competitive Sealed Bidding”.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 27, 2010, at 9:30 a.m., local time, at the Kagman Elementary School Library in Kagman, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than June 2, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-049, and submitted with one (1) original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 1:30 p.m., local time, June 7, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 3rd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with “Buy America” Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-050

“GENERAL REPAIR WORKS AT CHACHA JR. HIGH SCHOOL”

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **General Repair Works at Chacha Jr. High School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on May 11, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of \$66.75.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, “BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS”. Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, “Competitive Sealed Bidding”.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 27, 2010, at 10:30 a.m., local time, at the Chacha Jr. High School Library in Kagman, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than June 2, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-050, and submitted with one (1) original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m., local time, June 7, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 3rd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with “Buy America” Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

April FAM tours bring NMI \$628K in media exposure

The Northern Marianas received \$628,000 worth of media exposure in April 2010 through five FAM(iliarization) tours supported by a fraction of the amount expended by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Eighteen media outlets

from Korea, China, and Guam visited the islands throughout the month to gather information for print and broadcast articles beginning in April and beyond.

"This coverage will generate a variety of articles in some

influential media during our shoulder months, when travel demand to the Northern Marianas is low," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "This is a great opportunity to promote the Northern Marianas as a highly dynamic travel

destination."

■ Korea's EBS Professional Close Game brought a crew of nine to Rota to include the work of professional photographer Kim Jung Man in its documentary on the lives of various professionals.

■ Fifteen reporters from numerous Korean publications were on Saipan for five days in mid-April to cover tourist hotspots, such as Managaha, and water sports and activities at Saipan World Resort. The tour also introduced Hanwha Hotel & Resort as the new owner of Saipan World Resort. The reporters hailed from a number of the country's top general, sports,

and economic dailies.

■ Guam's Pacific Home and Garden TV caught the Flame Tree Arts Festival at the end of April, as well as the home, garden and farm of Rep. Stanley Torres. The show reaches 70,000 television viewers on Guam and Saipan and has a worldwide audience through its Web site.

■ Chengdu TV Channel 5 of Chengdu, China arrived on Saipan in late April to videotape "We Take You to See the Sea," a 2- to 4-minute ad that will air every 30 minutes during the station's 1 1/2 hour newscast.

■ Seventeen representatives from Asiana Airlines China

office and two media from Qingdao visited the Northern Marianas as part of a FAM tour during the last week of April. The group visited Saipan and Tinian and stayed at Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, and Palms Resort Saipan. During their stay they visited Managaha, took an island tour, shopped at DFS Galleria, and took in a dinner show at Sand-Castle Saipan.

The MVA attracted the media by covering partial costs for airline tickets, tours, and activities, as well as assisting with on-island coordination and acquiring media permits. (MVA)



MVA

Representatives of 18 daily publications in Korea visit the Korean Peace Memorial on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, during their April 2010 FAM tour of the islands. The tour was supported by the Marianas Visitors Authority.



MVA

Seventeen reps of Asiana Airlines China Office take a tour of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino during their April 2010 FAM tour of the Northern Mariana Islands. The group was escorted by Vida Borja of Marianas Visitors Authority, front right.

Awai takes over command of prepositioning squadron

Commodore Herman T. K. Awai relieved Captain Geoffrey T. Pack of command of Maritime Prepositioning Squadron 3 in a change of command ceremony held onboard the USNS *Major Stephen W. Pless* on May 14, 2010.

Pack has served as the Commodore of Military Prepositioning Squadron 3 since May 2009 and will return to his home in Coronado, California, where he will retire after a 30-year naval career. Previous tours include command of the USS *John Young* (DD 973) and Assault Craft Unit 5, as well as U.S. Defense attaché to Denmark.

Awai hails from Hawaii and was commissioned in the U.S. Navy in 1986. Previous sea tours include executive officer aboard USS *Fletcher* (DD 992) and commanding officer of the

USS *McClusky* (FFG 41). He holds advanced degrees from the Naval Postgraduate School and the National Defense University.

Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron 3 is one of three

squadrons designed to prestage U.S. Marine Corps equipment and supplies in strategic locations around the world. The primary mission of Squadron 3 is to support the rapid deployment of a Marine Corps Air-Ground Task Force by delivering combat and logistics vehicles, fuel, ammunition, rations and supplies to the Marines where needed throughout the world.

Military Prepositioning Squadron 3 staff is currently embarked on the *Pless* and is forward deployed to the Guam/Saipan region. (PR)



Pack



Awai



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to my BFF Jolanie Tenorio! Although we may have our rough times, you have been there for me in times of needs. Enjoy your day today, sis! Thinking of you always, San.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings go out to Angel Hart Cabrera, who is celebrating her birthday today, May 18! Have a great one! Much love coming from your man, Victor, and your two angels, Tiane and JD, as well as your NMC SOE class of 2009, and of course your WSR Kingfisher family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 18th birthday to Alana May Leon Guerrero, who is celebrating her birthday today, May 18, 2010! Much love from all your friends and the Dolphin and Bodig familia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SOPHIA WALK

Fifty Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan volunteers joined 70 other walkers in the 11th Annual Sophia Walk on May 16, Sunday. The occasion was also held as part of World Walking Day, which is celebrated around the world. The event was also graced by the Nippon Turtle Club of Japan and Rotary Club of Saipan. This event was sponsored by PDI and the Marianas Walking Association.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

BP says mile-long tube sucking oil away from broken Gulf well

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Oil company engineers on Sunday finally succeeded in keeping some of the oil gushing from a blown well out of the Gulf of Mexico, hooking up a mile-long tube to funnel the crude into a tanker ship after more than three weeks of failures.

Millions of gallons of crude are already in the water, however, and researchers said the black ooze may have entered a major current that could carry it through the Florida Keys and around to the East Coast.

BP PLC engineers remotely guiding robot submersibles had worked since Friday to place the tube into a 21-inch pipe nearly a mile below the sea. After several setbacks, the contraption was hooked up successfully and funneling oil to a tanker ship. The oil giant said it will take days to figure out how much oil its contraption is sucking up.

Volcanic ash to close London's Heathrow airport

LONDON (AP)—Europe's busiest airport was set to close early Monday morning as a dense crowd of volcanic ash drifts across England from Iceland, aviation authorities said.

The airspace over London's Heathrow Airport will be closed at 1 a.m. Monday (0000 GMT; 7 p.m. EDT), Britain's National Air Traffic Service said in a statement late Sunday night.

The restrictions affecting Heathrow—as well as Gatwick, Stansted, and London City airports—will be in place



This image from a video released by BP PLC shows oil and gas spewing from a yellowish, broken pipe 5,000 feet below the surface.

until at least 7 a.m. Monday, the aviation authority said.

Airports across Britain and Ireland were closed for much of Sunday because of the drifting ash. The shifting of the no-fly zone southward will allow airports in northern England—including the key cities of Manchester and Liverpool—to reopen after 1 a.m.

But all airports in Northern Ireland, as well as some Scottish facilities, will remain shut.

In Ireland, Dublin's international airport closed early Sun-

day evening until at least 12 p.m. Monday (1100 GMT, 7 a.m. EDT). Some airports in Ireland's west were closed and will reopen at different times Monday, but Shannon and southern Cork were open “until further notice.” The British air traffic agency said the ash cloud was changing shape and moving south, toward Oxford, England, 60 miles (100 kilometers) northwest of London. Britain's weather service says the northwest winds should shift midweek, redirecting the ash away from Britain.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Greek leader considers action against US banks

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou declared he is not ruling out taking legal action against U.S. investment banks for their role in creating the spiraling Greek debt crisis. Both the Greek government and its citizens have blamed international banks for fanning the flames of the debt crisis with comments about Greece's likely default, actions that are causing the country's borrowing costs to soar. “I wouldn't rule out that (legal action) might be a recourse. But we need to let due process (take its course) and then make our judgments once we get the results from the investigations,” Papandreou said in a CNN interview broadcast Sunday. He did not elaborate further on any actions against U.S. banks.

Oil falls to near \$70 as euro sinks to 4-year low

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices dropped to near \$70 a barrel Monday in Asia as the euro sank to a four-year low and stock markets tumbled on investor concern Europe's economy will wither amid a debt crisis and fiscal austerity measures. Benchmark crude for June delivery was down \$1.35 to \$70.26 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New

York Mercantile Exchange. The June contract lost \$2.79, almost 4 percent, to settle at \$71.61 on Friday. Crude fell as low as \$69.82, the lowest since \$69.59 on Feb. 5, as the U.S. dollar gained against the beleaguered euro, which was at a four year-low. Oil, which is priced in dollars, becomes more expensive to investors holding other currencies when the dollar advances.

Merkel: \$1 trillion rescue package only buys time

BERLIN (AP)—The euro750 billion (\$1 trillion) shock-and-awe rescue package to prevent the Greek debt crisis from spreading only bought eurozone countries more time, it didn't solve their underlying debt problems, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and a European Central Bank official said Sunday. Market turmoil over rising levels of European government debt—sparked by Greece's immediate crisis—will only calm down if the 16 nations who share the euro currency reform their economies and reduce their deficits, the German leader and ECB chief economist Juergen Stark said in different forums. “We bought time, not more than that,” Stark was quoted as saying in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung paper, adding the euro was not in danger “but in a critical situation.”

Nation

Dramatic surge seen in kids hospitalized with MRSA

ON THE NET:

Pediatrics: <http://www.pediatrics.org>

CHICAGO (AP)—The number of children hospitalized with dangerous drug-resistant staph infections surged 10-fold in recent years, a study found.

Disease incidence increased from 2 cases to 21 cases per 1,000 hospital admissions from 1999 to 2008. Most infections were caught in the community, not in the hospital.

The study involved methicillin-resistant staph infections, called MRSA. These used to occur mostly in hospitals and

nursing homes but they are increasingly showing up in other settings in children and adults. Recent evidence suggests hospital-acquired MRSA cases may be declining while community-acquired cases are becoming more common.

The results are “a good example of how something that is not unexpected remains alarming,” said Dr. Buddy Creech, an

infectious disease specialist at Vanderbilt University. He was not involved in the study.

The study involved 25 children's hospitals; the 10-fold increase in hospitalizations likely occurred nationwide, said Dr. Jason Newland, the lead author and an infectious disease physician at Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics and the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Abortion foes capitalizing on health law they fought

WASHINGTON (AP)—Abortion opponents fought passage of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul to the bitter end, and now that it's the law, they're using it to limit coverage by private insurers.

An obscure part of the law allows states to restrict abortion coverage by private plans operating in new insurance markets. Capitalizing on that language, abortion foes have succeeded in passing bans that, in some cases, go beyond federal statutes.

“We don't consider elective abortion to be health care, so we don't think it's a bad thing for fewer private insurance companies to cover it,” said Mary Harned, attorney for Americans United for Life, a national organization that wrote a model law for the states.

Abortion rights supporters are dismayed.

“Implementation of this reform should be about increasing access to health care and increasing choices, not taking

them away,” said Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., a member of the Senate leadership. “Health care reform is not an excuse to take rights away from women.”

Since Obama signed the legislation law March 23, Arizona and Tennessee have enacted laws restricting abortion coverage by health plans in new insurance markets, called exchanges. About 30 million people will get their coverage through exchanges, which open in 2014 to serve individuals and small businesses.

Shuttle Atlantis arrives at space station

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Atlantis arrived at the International Space Station on Sunday for what could be its last visit, delivering fresh batteries and other equipment to help keep the outpost running long after the shuttle program ends.

For now, Atlantis' dance card is empty after this flight, and NASA has just two missions remaining. But there's a push

to keep the space shuttles flying until next June and to give Atlantis one last hurrah.

Shuttle commander Kenneth Ham was visibly moved as he floated into the space station. He grabbed two of the station astronauts in a tight embrace.

“It's bigger than we remember and, speaking for myself, better than I remember,” Ham said. “I love this place.”

ACROSS THE NATION

RI school district agrees to rehire fired teachers

CENTRAL FALLS, R.I. (AP)—A school district that gained the support of President Barack Obama for promoting accountability after it fired all its teachers from a struggling school announced on Sunday it had reached an agreement with the union to return all the current staffers to their jobs. The two sides said a transformation plan for Central Falls High School for the coming school year would allow the 87 teachers, guidance counselors, librarians and other staffers who were to lose their jobs at the end of this year to return without having to reapply. More than 700 people had already applied for the positions. The agreement also imposes a longer school day, more after-school tutoring and other changes.

F-16s respond to flight near Mexican border in AZ

PHOENIX (AP)—The North American Aerospace Defense Command says two F-16 fighter planes intercepted an ultralight aircraft near the U.S.-Mexico border in southwestern Arizona. The plane crossed from Mexico into Arizona just after 6 a.m. Sunday. NORAD dispatched two F-16s from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson and they shadowed the ultralight for

about 30 minutes until it flew back into Mexico. Lt. Cmdr. Gary Ross says he was unaware of any radio contact with the small plane. Ultralight aircraft are sometimes used to carry drugs and other contraband across the border. NORAD responds about 200 times a year to aircraft flying without radio contact or in restricted airspace, but Ross says it's not typical for the command center to intercept an ultralight.

Detroit police say 7-year-old shot in home search

DETROIT (AP)—A sleeping 7-year-old girl was shot and killed when an officer's gun went off while Detroit police were searching a duplex for a suspect in the slaying of a teenager, a police official said. Assistant Chief Ralph Godbee said at a news conference Sunday that Aiyana Jones was hit in the neck by a single bullet and died at a hospital. Police said the girl was sleeping on a couch when she was shot. “This is any parent's worst nightmare. It also is any police officer's worst nightmare,” Godbee said. Godbee said officers with the department's Special Response Team set off a flash grenade as they entered the apartment with their guns drawn about 12:40 a.m. Sunday with a warrant to look for a suspect in the Friday slaying of a 17-year-old boy.

Asia

Wounded rogue Thai general dies as chaos continues

BANGKOK (AP)—A rogue Thai general who aided anti-government protesters and was shot by an unidentified sniper died Monday from his wounds, raising fears of new violence after five days of street battles that have killed 36 people in downtown Bangkok.

Thai news reports said that Maj. Gen. Khattiya Sawasdiphol, a renegade army officer accused of creating a paramilitary force for the Red Shirt protesters, died Monday of gunshot wounds. The death came five days after he was shot in the head by a sniper in downtown Bangkok while talking to journalists inside the perimeter of the protest zone.

Channel 9 television, Thai Rath newspaper and other media outlets reported Khattiya died in a hospital, where he was being treated since Thursday's attack.

The attack on Khattiya triggered widespread street fighting



In this May 1, 2010 file photo, Thai Maj. Gen. Khattiya Sawasdiphol, left, also known as "Seh Daeng," a rogue commander for the anti-government "Red Shirts," gathers with others during a dispute over a barricade near Chulalongkorn Hospital.

ing between anti-government protesters and the army in central Bangkok.

The Red Shirts have been protesting since mid-March demanding the immediate resignation of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, the dissolution of Parliament and new elections.

Anti-government unrest that has boiled over in downtown Bangkok spread Sunday to other areas of the capital. The Thai military has defended its use of force, and the government flatly rejected protesters' demands that the United Nations intercede to end the chaos.

Fear in Bangkok as bullets fly close to home

BANGKOK (AP)—A dentist looks down from his 20th-story apartment and sees a body on the pavement, blood streaming from its head. Bonfires burn in major streets that normally would be jammed with shoppers and tourists. Hotels are filled with soldiers and police, their boots and shields lining the hallways.

In the capital of a nation that proudly calls itself The Land of Smiles, urban warfare is raging outside luxury high-rises and crumbling shophouses. Residents—those who haven't fled—lock themselves inside

and hope the violence comes no closer.

"I don't have the stomach to go near the window anymore," said Teerawat Tussranapirom, the dentist who saw the body on the pavement. He photographed the gruesome scene and posted the image on his Facebook page.

"I haven't left the building," Teerawat said in a telephone interview. "I've stockpiled food and water for two days. I don't know what I'm going to do if it runs out."

Going outside is out of the question these days in parts

of downtown Bangkok, most of which has become a battlefield, punctuated by thundering explosions and the constant clack-clack-clack of gunfire.

Soldiers have killed 30 people and wounded more than 220 since a crackdown on anti-government protesters began Thursday. There was no immediate end in sight after the government ominously said over the weekend that the only way to restore peace is to persist with its crackdown on the Red Shirt protesters, who have been camped since April 3 in an upscale shopping district.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Filipino Muslim rebels open to talks with Aquino

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim guerrillas said Sunday that they were ready to enter into peace talks with Philippine president-apparent Benigno Aquino III after years of little progress under his predecessor, hoping that his strong electoral mandate can bolster negotiations to end one of the country's decades-long rebellions. Moro Islamic Liberation Front negotiator Mohagher Iqbal, however, said his group would reserve its expectations on the prospects of a peace accord under a new Aquino administration, recalling that talks initially went well under his predecessor, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, but then collapsed. "Aquino's victory was untainted by allegations of vote-rigging unlike Arroyo's," Iqbal said. Arroyo's stormy rule ends on June 30. "He has more moral authority as a president and that will add to his clout," Iqbal told The Associated Press.

Reports: Hatoyama, Clinton to discuss US base

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, who will reportedly meet with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton this week, vowed Monday to do all he can to resolve an impasse over the future of a major American Marine base by the end of the month. Hatoyama is under increasing pressure to come up with a plan

to move operations off the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma on the southern island of Okinawa in keeping with a pledge he made before becoming Japan's leader last September. He has promised to resolve the issue by the end of this month, though that goal now seems unrealistic because Okinawans oppose his suggested solutions and the United States is holding firm to an earlier agreement that Hatoyama wants to revise.

HK democracy activists defend low election turnout

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong activists on Monday defended a low turnout in a special election that returned five opposition legislators who had resigned, saying they had still mobilized hundreds of thousands of voters who want Beijing to implement full democracy. Beijing loyalists called the engineered election a failure, saying the weak numbers at the polls show support for gradual change in this former British colony with an unelected leader and a half-elected legislature. Hong Kongers voted Sunday to fill five vacancies in the Legislative Council—one in each of the territory's five major electoral districts. The five legislators resigned in January, hoping to set up a face-off against pro-Beijing candidates in a de facto referendum on democracy. But pro-China political parties boycotted the contest and the attention shifted to the turnout.

World

AP Exclusive: Vatican details US sex abuse defense

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican on Monday will make its most detailed defense yet against claims that it is liable for U.S. bishops who allowed priests to molest children, saying bishops are not its employees and that a 1962 Vatican document did not require them to keep quiet, The Associated Press has learned.

that the 1962 document "Crimen Sollicitationis"—Latin for "crimes of solicitation"—barred bishops from reporting abuse to police.

Lena said Sunday there is no evidence the document was even known to the archdiocese in question—much less used—and that regardless it didn't mandate that bishops not report abusive priests.

The Vatican will make the arguments in a motion to dismiss a federal lawsuit on jurisdictional grounds filed in Louisville, Ky., but it could affect other efforts to sue the Holy See.

The Vatican's U.S. attorney, Jeffrey Lena, said it will include a response to claims

Lena said the confidentiality imposed by Crimen did not trump civil law and was applied only in formal canonical processes, which bishops had the discretion to suspend if there was a conflict with reporting laws.

"It is important that people—



Pope Benedict XVI blesses faithful from the window of his studio overlooking St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican, Sunday, May 16, 2010.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraq recount affirms win for Sunni-backed bloc

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's electoral commission affirmed on Sunday the narrow victory of a Sunni-backed bloc in the March vote after a partial recount undercut the Shiite prime minister's claims of fraud in the tally. The result was a setback for Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who came in second to former Prime Minister Ayad Allawi by a small margin. But his alliance with another Shiite bloc still gives him a strong chance of holding on to power for another four years. "I hope that all political blocs are satisfied now that the electoral process was honest and all allegations of fraud and forgery were totally incorrect," electoral commission spokesman Qassim al-Aboudi told reporters after the results of a recount of votes for the capital Baghdad were announced. "According to the law, political blocks and candidates can appeal these results but we hope that no one will do that," al-Aboudi said.

Brazil's leader seeks nuclear compromise with Iran

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Brazil's president met with Iranian leaders Sunday to try to broker a compromise in the international standoff over Tehran's nuclear program, even as the U.S. says new sanctions are the only way to force Iran's cooperation. Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is trying to use Brazil's friendly relations with Iran to show it can be a fair, neutral broker in the escalating dispute. Since evidence of a clandestine Iranian nuclear program first emerged in 2003, negotiations with world powers and visits by U.N. inspectors have failed to persuade the U.S. and its allies that Iran is not pursuing a weapons capability. Washington has taken a hard line, and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said last

week that the Brazilian leader's efforts might be "the last chance" to avoid sanctions.

French academic leaves Iran after 10 months

PARIS (AP)—A young French academic who battled spying charges in Iran for more than 10 months returned to France on Sunday and thanked President Nicolas Sarkozy and other officials for insisting on her innocence and pressing for her release. Clotilde Reiss, 24, was accused of joining protests, gathering information, taking photos and sending them abroad during unrest that broke out after June's disputed presidential elections in Iran. Her support committee said she was targeted for an innocuous e-mail to friends describing the events unfolding around her. Reiss was convicted of provoking unrest and spying, but her lawyer said the 10-year jail term was commuted to a fine of 3 billion rials (\$300,000). He said he paid the fine Saturday.

Brazil fire burns huge collection of dead snakes

SAO PAULO (AP)—A fire in Brazil destroyed what may be the world's largest scientific collection of dead snakes, spiders and scorpions that served as the main source for research on many species, scientists said Sunday. Members of the Instituto Butantan said the nearly 100-year-old collection lost in Saturday's fire included almost 80,000 snakes and several thousand specimens of spiders and scorpions. The specimens were used to study evolution and provided information on how to avert extinctions, said institute director Otavio Mercadante. "The entire collection was lost, the biggest collection of snakes in the world," curator Francisco Franco told Globo TV and other local media. "It's a loss to humanity."

Focus

NEW YORK (AP)—In 1998, a hacker told Congress that he could bring down the Internet in 30 minutes by exploiting a certain flaw that sometimes caused online outages by misdirecting data. In 2003, the Bush administration concluded that fixing this flaw was in the nation's "vital interest."

Fast forward to 2010, and very little has happened to improve the situation. The flaw still causes outages every year. Although most of the outages are innocent and fixed quickly, the problem still could be exploited by a hacker to spy on data traffic or take down websites. Meanwhile, our reliance on the Internet has only increased. The next outage, accidental or malicious, could disrupt businesses, the government or anyone who needs the Internet to run normally.

The outages are caused by the somewhat haphazard way that traffic is passed between companies that carry Internet data. The outages are called "hijackings," even though most of them are not caused by criminals bent on destruction. Instead the outages are a problem borne out of the open nature of the Internet, a quality that also has stimulated the Net's dazzling growth.

"It's ugly when you look under the cover," says Earl Zmijewski, a general manager at Renesys Corp., which tracks the performance of Internet data routes. "It amazes me every day when I get into work and find it's working."

When you send an e-mail, view a Web page or do anything else online, the information you read and transmit is handed from one carrier of Internet data to another, sometimes in a long chain. When you log into Facebook, your data might be handed from your Internet service provider to a company such as Level 3 Communications Inc., which operates a global network of fiber-optic lines that carry Internet data across long distances. It, in turn, might pass the data to a carrier that's connected directly to Facebook's server computers.

The crux of the problem is that each carrier along the way figures out how to route the data based only on what the surrounding carriers in the chain say, rather than by looking at the whole path. It's as if a driver had to get from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh without a map, navigating solely by traffic signs he encountered along the way—but the signs weren't put up by a central authority. If a sign pointed in the wrong direction, that driver would get lost.

That's essentially what happens when an Internet route gets hijacked. Because carriers pass information between themselves about where data should go—and this system has no secure, automatic means of verifying that the routing information is correct—data can be routed to some carrier that isn't expecting the information. The carrier doesn't know what to do with it, and usually just drops it. It falls into a "black hole."

On April 25, 1997, millions of people in North America lost access to all of the Internet for about an hour. The hijacking was caused by an employee misprogramming a router, a computer that directs data traffic, at a small Internet service provider.

A similar incident happened elsewhere the next year, and the one after that. Routing errors also blocked Internet access in different parts of the world, often for millions of people, in 2001, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008 and

How an unfixed Net glitch could strand you offline

By PETER SVENSSON
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER



Verizon employees, from left, Sam Patel, network engineer, manager Todd Coleman, and network engineer Marcel Camara work in the Advanced WAN Managed Services area at the Verizon Business Managed Services Center in Cary, N.C., Thursday, June 19, 2008. AP

2009. Last month a Chinese Internet service provider halted access from around the world to a vast number of sites, including Dell.com and CNN.com, for about 20 minutes.

In 2008, Pakistan Telecom tried to comply with a government order to prevent access to YouTube from the country and intentionally "blackholed" requests for YouTube videos from Pakistani Internet users. But it also accidentally told the international carrier upstream from it that "I'm the

er in Malaysia to tell Internet service providers that it was part of Yahoo Inc. A flood of spam was sent out, appearing to come from Yahoo.

"Hijacking is very much like identity theft. Someone in the world claims to be you," said Todd Underwood, who worked for Renesys during the Pakistan Telecom hijacking. He now works for Google Inc., trying to prevent hijacking of its websites, which include YouTube.

In 2003, the Bush administration's

to introduce a permanent remedy. Data carriers regard the fallibility of the routing system as the price to be paid for the Internet's open, flexible structure. The simplicity of the routing system makes it easy for service providers to connect, a quality that has probably helped the explosive growth of the Internet.

That growth has also increased the risks exponentially. Fifteen years ago, maybe 8,000 people in the world had access to computers that use the Border Gateway Protocol, or BGP, which

Unlike Internet bugs that get discovered and fixed relatively quickly, the routing system has been unreformed for more than a decade. And while there's some progress being made, there's little industry-wide momentum behind efforts to introduce a permanent remedy. Data carriers regard the fallibility of the routing system as the price to be paid for the Internet's open, flexible structure.

best route to YouTube, so send all YouTube traffic to me." The upstream carrier accepted the routing message, and passed it along to other carriers across the world, which started sending all requests for YouTube videos to Pakistan Telecom. Soon, even Internet users in the U.S. were deprived of videos of singing cats and skateboarding dogs for a few hours.

In 2004, the flaw was put to malicious use when someone got a comput-

Critical Infrastructure Protection Board assembled a "National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace" that concluded that it was vital to fix the routing system and make sure the "traffic signs" always point in the right direction.

But unlike Internet bugs that get discovered and fixed relatively quickly, the routing system has been unreformed for more than a decade. And while there's some progress being made, there's little industry-wide momentum behind efforts

defines how carriers pass routing information to each other. Now, Danny McPherson, chief security officer at Arbor Networks, believes that with the growth of Internet access across the world and the attendant increase in the number of carriers, that figure is probably closer to 1 million people.

Peiter Zatko, a member of the "hacker think tank" called the L0pht, told Congress in 1998 that he could use the BGP vulnerability to bring down the Internet

in half an hour. In recent years, Zatko—who now works for the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency—has said the exploit would still work. However, it would likely take a few hours rather than 30 minutes, partly because a greater number of Internet carriers would need to be hit.

Plenty of solutions have been proposed in the Internet engineering community, going back as far as 1995. The U.S. government has supported these efforts, spurred in part by the Bush administration's 2003 strategy statement. That has resulted in some trials of new technology, but adoption by data carriers still appears distant. And the federal government doesn't have any direct authority to force changes.

One reason is that the weaknesses in the system are in the routing between carriers. It doesn't help if one carrier introduces a new system—every one it connects with has to make the change as well.

"It's kind of everybody's problem, because it impacts the stability of the Internet, but at the same time it's nobody's problem because nobody owns it," says Doug Maughan, who deals with the issue at the Department of Homeland Security.

The big Internet carriers seem willing to accept the status quo. Spokesmen at AT&T Inc. and Verizon Communications Inc., two of the largest, world-spanning carriers of Internet traffic, said they were unable to find anyone at their companies who could discuss the issue of routing reform.

Pieter Poll, the chief technology officer at Qwest Communications International Inc., says that he would support some simple mechanisms to validate data routes, but he argues that fundamental reform isn't necessary. Hijackings are typically corrected quickly enough that they don't pose a major threat, he argues.

One fix being tested would stop short of making the routing system fully secure but would at least verify part of it. Yet this system also worries carriers because they would have to work through a central database.

"My fear is that innovation on the Internet would slow down if there's a need to go through a central authority," Poll says. "I see little appetite for that in the industry."

Jeffrey Hunker, a former senior director for critical infrastructure in the Clinton administration, says he's not surprised that little has happened on the issue since 2003. He doesn't expect much to happen in the next seven years, either.

"The only thing that's going to drive adoption is a major incident, which we haven't had yet," he says. "But there's plenty of evidence out there that a major incident would be possible."

In the meantime, network administrators deal with hijacking an old-fashioned way: calling their counterparts close to where the hijacking is happening to get them to manually change data routes. Because e-mails may not arrive if a route has been hijacked, the phone is a more reliable option, says Tom Daly, chief technical officer of Dynamic Network Services Inc., which provides Web hosting and other Internet services.

"You make some phone calls and hope and pray," Daly says. "That's about it."

Overdrive

Tucson best, brightest and cheapest among compact SUVs



The 2010 Hyundai Tucson is the latest in a string of small SUVs that have raised the bar for the segment with exciting new style and features. AP

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Terrific small SUVs are popping up like spring flowers, and Hyundai builds the newest, best-looking and most fuel-efficient.

Sales of compact SUVs have been rising for years, but the vehicles' appeal rested more on practicality than passion.

They offered SUV height, all-wheel drive and field of view combined with car-like fuel economy. Most lacked the looks or features to rise above that rational appeal, however. There was plenty to like about small crossovers, but little to love.

It was only a matter of time before the brilliance of the marketplace changed that. The 2010 Hyundai Tucson is the latest in a string of small SUVs that have raised the bar for the segment with exciting new style and features.

Prices for the 2010 Tucson start at \$18,995 for a front-wheel drive GLS model with a six-speed manual transmission.

Stepping up to a six-speed auto-

matic transmission raises the price of a front-drive GLS to \$19,995. All-wheel drive models start at \$21,495.

All Tucsons come with a peppy 176-horsepower, 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine. All-wheel drive is only available with the automatic transmission.

The higher trim level, Limited, starts at \$24,345 for front-drive and \$25,845 for all-wheel drive.

I tested a very well-equipped all-wheel drive Tucson GLS that stickered at \$25,295. Optional equipment included a navigation system, upgraded stereo and backup camera.

The Tucson's key competition includes vehicles like the Chevrolet Equinox, Ford Escape, Honda CR-V, Nissan Rogue and Toyota RAV4.

All those crossover SUVs have a higher base price than the Tucson. None can beat the new Hyundai's fuel economy. When comparably equipped, they all cost more than the Tucson I tested.

While the Tucson offers lots

of appealing features, two did not function as smoothly as they should. The hands-free phone system and USB music player interface both worked inconsistently.

The interior is comfortable and attractive. The gauges and controls are legible and easy to use. Pleasant flowing shapes accentuated the appeal of the brown two-tone interior of the car I tested. The materials look and feel terrific, particularly the optional soft-touch paint on the doors and center stack.

Passenger space is good, providing more room than several larger crossovers. The cargo compartment offers less space than the CR-V, Equinox, Escape or RAV4.

The Tucson has 25.7 cubic feet of cargo space behind its rear seats and 55.8 with those seats folded flat. The Chevrolet, Ford, Honda and Toyota all top those figures by at least 5.7 cubic feet behind the rear seat and 7.9 with the seats folded.

The Tucson's striking shape obscures the fact that the 173.2-inch-long Hyundai is considerably small-

er than most of its competitors.

The Tucson's modern and compact exterior design looks like an artist's vision of a future vehicle than the pragmatic vehicles that were once Hyundai's stock in trade. Alongside the stunning 2011 Sonata and the 2-year-old Genesis, the Tucson makes Hyundai's design team a force to be reckoned with.

The Tucson's six-sided grille flows into a sculpted hood and sides adorned with crisp character lines. Head and taillights that wrap around into the fenders complement the sleek shape.

The Tucson brings the elegance of pricier crossovers like the Nissan Murano and Ford Edge to a smaller and less-expensive class of vehicle.

Most automakers offer a choice of four-cylinder or V6 engine in their compact crossover. The Tucson is only available with its 2.4-liter four-cylinder. That contributes to its good fuel economy and its light weight.

The Tucson's EPA fuel economy ratings match or exceed its competitors. A front-wheel drive model with Hyundai's smooth six-speed automatic transmission rated 23 mpg in city driving, 31 mpg on the highway and 26 mpg combined.

The all-wheel drive model I tested rated 21 mpg in the city, 28 mpg on the highway and 24 mpg combined.

The efficient engine and transmission provide good acceleration, with plenty of power for zipping around town and quick highway runs.

The electric power steering is firm and well tuned. The suspension absorbs bumps well.

Handling and braking are good when you push the Tucson hard in traffic.

From great looks to exceptional value the 2010 Tucson is the latest in a string of very good vehicles that establish Hyundai as one of the hottest brands in the auto industry.

UNDER THE HOOD

Alternator issues can make electronics act up

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: The driver's side window opener on my '97 Subaru has been working intermittently. I took it to my regular mechanic, who diagnosed it as a worn motor, which he replaced. This didn't fix the problem, so he replaced the switch, which—you guessed it—also did not fix the problem.

After consulting with another mechanic, they looked at the Subaru service bulletins and found that the issue is a "leaking" diode in the alternator and that I would have to replace the alternator for \$400.

After spending several hundred dollars replacing window parts, I'm a little reluctant to proceed with yet another repair. What do you think?—Chris Dresden

ANSWER: If it weren't for puzzles like this, fixing cars wouldn't be half the fun it is!

I checked the service bulletins mentioned and agree that a faulty alternator (also called an ac generator) can cause some very odd problems within a vehicle's electrical system. Another bulletin said erratic alternator operation had been proven to intermittently affect "auto down" Subaru window operation.

Alternators produce electricity by rotating a multiple pole magnet within three intricately coiled lengths of wire. As a magnet approaches and departs from each coil, a positive and negative electrical wave occurs. A group of large, sturdy diodes, the most basic of electronic components, convert the alternating current to direct current so it can be stored within the battery and used by the vehicle's electrical system. Should a diode "leak" (a failed/shorted condition), an alternating current enters the electrical system, which can cause odd engine performance, buzzing relays, a jumping speedometer needle and other odd behavior. Fortunately, this is an easy situation to detect. The alternator can be simply unplugged—the car will run fine for several hours without it—and a check is made to see if the symptoms disappear. Another quick/easy check is to see if excessive AC voltage is present at the alternator's output terminal (a very tiny amount is acceptable as the diodes are not perfect) and that DC output voltage is correct/consistent.

I also checked the Subaru wiring diagrams to see how your window controls work. They're old-school on a '97—basic electrical, not computer-controlled, making me wonder how a leaky diode might affect operation. Did the repair shop confirm you had a failed alternator diode or is mulling the possibility? Hat's off to them for being heads-up, checking for applicable service bulletins as they did. Good information is crucial to making a timely and effective diagnosis. If AC current is entering the car, this needs to be fixed, regardless of whether it helps to repair the window.

Had this intermittent fault been with all windows or a different window than the driver's, I'd wonder if a wire leading from the car body to door (concealed within a rubber boot) may be breaking, due to many years of door opening/closing. In this case, one would try operating the affected window (holding the switch button continuously) as the door was swung open and closed. Should window operation change, the demon is found.

It sounds like your other windows work fine. If so, this proves the requisite circuits leading to the power window master switch are working fine, and the intermittent driver's window fault must reside within the driver's door. It may be necessary to drive the car sans door trim panel for a few days, so a quick check for voltage at the motor and switch can be made—the instant it acts up. My hunch would be a loose connection at the switch or motor, or perhaps a binding window mechanism—sticky to move at certain points within its range of travel.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him e-mail at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

NUTS & BOLTS

PRICE AS TESTED: \$25,295

RATING: Four out of four stars

REASONS TO BUY: Value, looks, features

SHORTCOMINGS: Cargo space, iPod controls, hands-free phone malfunction

SPECS:

VEHICLE TYPE: All-wheel drive five-passenger crossover SUV

BASE PRICE: \$21,495 (excluding destination charges)

AS TESTED: \$25,295

KEY FEATURES: Antilock brakes; emergency brake assist; brake-force distribution; stability control; downhill brake control; hill-start assist; front-seat side air bags; curtain air bags.

ENGINE: 2.4-liter DOHC variable-timing 16-valve four-cylinder

POWER: 176 horsepower at 5,700 rpm; 168 pound-feet of torque at 4,000 rpm

TRANSMISSION: Six-speed automatic

FUEL ECONOMY: 21 mpg city/28 mpg highway

WHEELBASE: 103.9 inches

LENGTH: 173.2 inches

WIDTH: 71.7 inches

HEIGHT: 65.2 inches (without roof rails)

CURB WEIGHT: 3,382 pounds

WHERE ASSEMBLED: Ulsan, South Korea

OPTIONS ON TEST VEHICLE: Navigation system; backup video; Bluetooth phone and audio compatibility; premium audio with external amp and subwoofer; automatic headlights; carpeted floor mats; 17-inch alloy wheels; privacy glass; soft-touch interior paint; steering wheel audio and cruise controls; manual telescopic steering wheel.

COMPETITIVE EPA FUEL ECONOMY RATINGS:

(Four-cylinder, automatic transmission, all-wheel drive models)

HYUNDAI TUCSON: 21 mpg city/28 mpg highway/24 mpg combined.

CHEVROLET EQUINOX: 20 mpg city/29 mpg highway/23 mpg combined.

FORD ESCAPE: 20 mpg city/26 mpg highway/22 mpg combined.

HONDA CR-V: 21 mpg city/27 mpg highway/23 mpg combined.

TOYOTA RAV4: 21 mpg city/27 mpg highway/24 mpg combined.

COMPARATIVE BASE PRICES:

(not including destination charges)

(All-wheel drive, automatic transmission four-cylinder engine models)

CHEVROLET EQUINOX LS: \$24,365

FORD ESCAPE XLS: \$22,770

HONDA CR-V LX: \$22,795

TOYOTA RAV4 BASE: \$23,075

Life & Style

Arab-American from Michigan crowned 2010 Miss USA

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A 24-year-old Arab American from Michigan beat out 50 other women to take the 2010 Miss USA title Sunday night, despite nearly stumbling in her evening gown.

Rima Fakih of Dearborn, Mich., won the pageant at the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino on the Las Vegas Strip after strutting confidently in an orange and gold bikini, wearing a strapless white gown that resembled a wedding dress and saying health insurance should cover birth control pills.

When asked how she felt about winning the crown, she said, "Ask me after I've had a pizza."

Fakih, a Lebanese immigrant, told pageant organizers her family celebrates both Muslim and Christian faiths. She moved to the United States as a baby and was raised in New York, where she attended a Catholic school. Her family moved to Michigan in 2003.

Pageant officials said historical pageant records were not detailed enough to show whether Fakih was the first Arab American, Muslim or immigrant to win the Miss USA title. The pageant started in 1952 as a local bathing suit competition in Long Beach, Calif.

Fakih told reporters she sold her car after graduating college in Michigan to help pay for her run in the Miss Michigan USA pageant.

She said she believed she had the title on Sunday after glancing at pageant owner Donald Trump as she awaited the results with the first runner-up, Miss Oklahoma USA Morgan Elizabeth Woolard.

"That's the same look that he gives them when he says, 'You're hired,'" on Trump's reality show "The Apprentice," she said.

"She's a great girl," said Trump, who owns the pageant with NBC in a joint venture.

In a moment that was replayed during the broadcast, Fakih nearly fell while finishing her walk in her gown because of the length of its train. But she made it without a spill and went on to win.

"I did it here, I better not do it at Miss Universe," she said. "Modeling does help, after all."

Fakih replaces Miss USA 2009 Kristen Dalton and won a spot representing the United States this summer in the 2010 Miss Universe pageant. She also gets a one-year lease in a New York apartment with living expenses, an undisclosed salary, and various health, professional and beauty services.

During the interview portion, Fakih was asked whether she thought birth control should be paid for by health insurance, and she said she believed it should because it's costly.

"I believe that birth control is just like every other medication even though it's a controlled substance," Fakih said.

Woolard handled the night's toughest question, about Arizona's new immigration law. Woolard said she supports the law, which requires police enforcing another law to verify a person's immigration status if there's "reasonable suspicion" that the person is in the country illegally.

She said she's against illegal immigr-



Miss Michigan Rima Fakih reacts as she is crowned Miss USA 2010 Sunday, May 16, 2010 in Las Vegas.

AP

tion but is also against racial profiling.

"I'm a huge believer in states' rights. I think that's what's so wonder-

ful about America," Woolard said. "So I think it's perfectly fine for Arizona to create that law."

"The Office" actor Oscar Nunez was booed as he asked the question and asked the audience to wait until he finished the question before they reacted. The panel of judges came up with the questions themselves.

Miss Virginia USA Samantha Evelyn Casey was the second runner-up, Miss Colorado USA Jessica Hartman was third runner-up, and Miss Maine USA Katherine Ashley Whittier was the fourth runner-up.

Most of the field of contestants from all 50 states and the District of Columbia were eliminated just after the pageant began and the entire group danced onstage to "TiK ToK" by Ke\$ha.

A panel of eight judges, including NBA star Carmelo Anthony, Treasure Island casino-hotel owner Phil Ruffin and Olympic figure skater Johnny Weir, were judging the girls throughout the night.

After 15 contestants strutted in swimsuits, five were eliminated. Another five were eliminated after the evening gown competition.

Miss Nebraska USA Belinda Renee Wright won the Miss Congeniality award, roughly one week after her father was killed in a farm accident. Miss Alabama USA Audrey Moore won Miss Photogenic after an online fan vote.

The pageant aired live to East Coast viewers on NBC.

The competition, which is not affiliated with the Miss America pageant, was hosted by celebrity chef Curtis Stone and NBC correspondent Natalie Morales.

National 'Glee' tour takes show to its Gleeks

PHOENIX (AP)—School's out, but the "Glee" kids haven't stopped believin'.

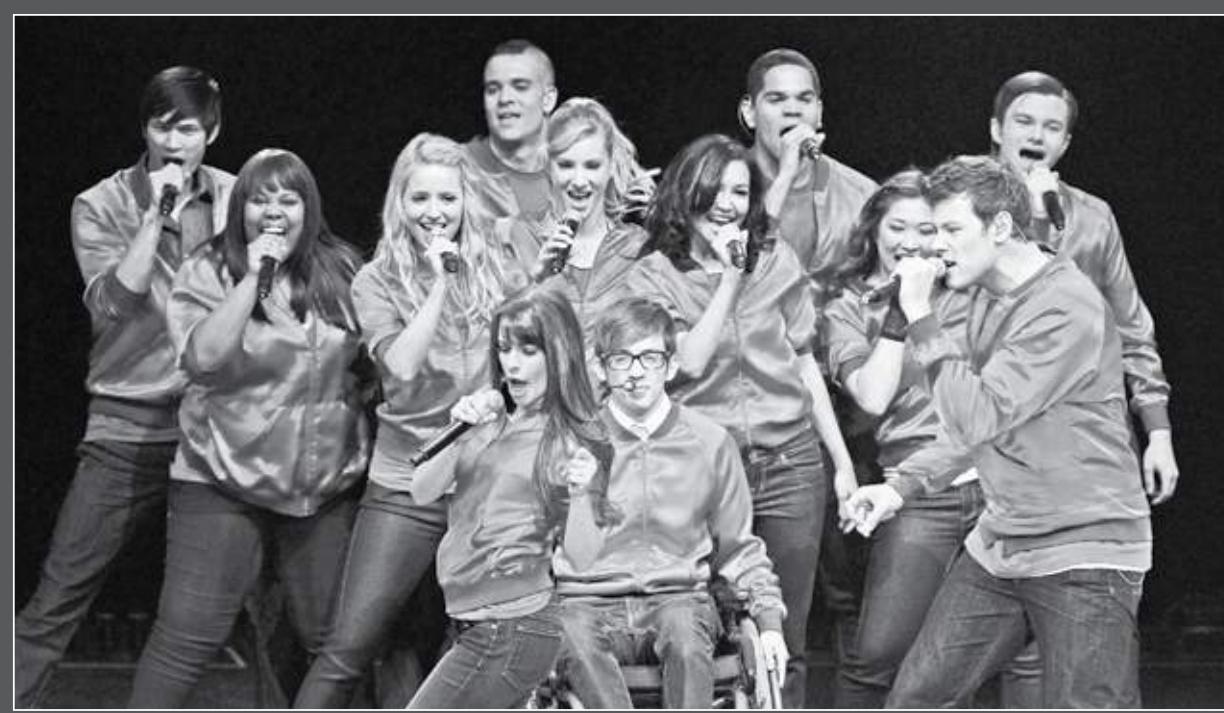
The cast making up the popular Fox show's band of singing teens launched its four-city tour Saturday in Phoenix, anxious to bring the theatrics of a major network show to a relatively smaller stage.

While the show's battling adults, played by Jane Lynch and Matthew Morrison, were not part of the stage production, their absence was filled by taped messages to the audience. After an opening act by the excellent dance troupe Legion of Extraordinary Dancers, Lynch took to the screens snarling that the night's entertainment was about to make the audience ill.

"You will be barfing," she promised.

It was the start of an evening that only a fan would appreciate. Casual or non-viewers who paid upward of \$75 per seat surely wondered why they spent so much to see costumes mostly comprised color-coordinated street clothes, or a backdrop of bleachers made to resemble a music classroom. Or perhaps pondered why the set list seemed so disjointed.

The connecting spirit of the show was deeply rooted in fan appreciation, starting with a list of song favorites from the TV show and going all the way to the cast's dash through an ecstatic crowd as Lea Michele, in character as glee club



The cast of the popular television show "Glee" including Lea Michele, front left, and Cory Monteith, front right, perform during a concert to kickoff a national "Glee" tour at the Dodge Theatre Saturday, May 15, 2010, in Phoenix.

co-captain Rachel Berry, belted out "Don't Rain on My Parade."

"This whole thing kind of feels like a big 'Thank you' to the fans because they have made the show such a success so quickly and so early on," Kevin McHale, who plays the wheelchair-bound Artie, told The Associated Press. "So this is like giving back."

But while the cast is happy to give the show's rabid fans, who call themselves Gleeks, what they want, it also served up reminders that actors are behind the characters. When Cory Monteith drums during Mark Salling's "Sweet Caroline," Salling announces the talent as Monteith's, instead of that of his character Finn.

It's a confusion revisited throughout, as the cast slips in and out of character. Heather Morris offers a few hilarious observations as ditzy cheerleader Brittany, but they're in sharp contrast to her expert dance moves.

Those impressed by the power in Amber Riley's voice also would be surprised that she sounds much softer,

much sweeter in person. Her live performance of Christina Aguilera's "Beautiful" lacked the strength of her recorded cover, though it eventually showed up in the empowering "Bust Your Windows."

Live renditions of Chris Colfer's "Defying Gravity" and Jenna Ushkowitz's "True Colors" retained the poignancy and dignity of their televised counterparts. Ushkowitz's "Bad Romance" had the audience roaring (though most of the delight might have been for the bevy of co-stars, Colfer in particular, back-up dancing in Lady Gaga costumes).

But whether the fans notice the cast's vocals over their own echoing voices is another question. Some were so pleased to breathe the same air as their idols that they gleefully ignored a "Like a Prayer" that came in at several octaves too high or that rival club Vocal Adrenaline's performance was a masked song-and-dance routine with no singing involved.

For a show whose hit Journey cover famously asks viewers to suspend their imagination, the pricey admission ticket is a lot to ask for a glorified high school talent show. But for Gleeks, there's no pretending that they won't love their favorite show come to life.

For Phoenix high schooler Reiana Hernandez, 14, who waited four hours Saturday to buy just-released tickets, it was enough "just hearing their voices live, I think that's going to be the best."

'Iron Man 2' stays atop box office with \$53M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Steel-basted bows and arrows at the movies this weekend, with "Iron Man 2" fighting off the new release "Robin Hood" to stay at the top of the box office.

The superhero sequel starring Robert Downey Jr. took in \$53 million domestically to remain at No. 1, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Paramount Pictures release has made over \$212 million in its first two weeks.

"Robin Hood," which features Russell Crowe teaming up with director Ridley Scott for the fifth time, debuted in the No. 2 spot with an estimated \$37.1 million. The Universal Pictures blockbuster, a sort of prequel to the Robin Hood legend, co-stars Cate Blanchett as Marian.

But "Robin Hood" had a huge opening internationally, mak-

1. "Iron Man 2," \$53 million.
2. "Robin Hood," \$37.1 million.
3. "Letters to Juliet," \$13.75 million.
4. "Just Wright," \$8.5 million.
5. "How to Train Your Dragon," \$5.1 million.
6. "A Nightmare on Elm Street," \$4.7 million.
7. "Date Night," \$4 million.
8. "The Back-Up Plan," \$2.5 million.
9. "Furry Vengeance," \$2.3 million.
10. "Clash of the Titans," \$1.3 million.

ing \$74 million outside North America for a total of \$111.1 million this weekend. Nikki Rocco, Universal's president of domestic distribution, said the global figures reached beyond the studio's expectations.

"The combination of the subject matter and Ridley and Cate and Russell, that would be the driving force behind it," Rocco said. "It confirms that 'Robin Hood' is an endearing and en-

during legend and I think the cast resonates with filmgoers."

Paul Dergarabedian, box office analyst for Hollywood.com, said the film's relevance to today's economy also was part of its appeal.

"There are a lot of things to crow about here, no pun intended," Dergarabedian said. "The theme of stealing from the rich and giving to the poor resonates particularly well with worldwide audiences today."

The aesthetic similarity between "Robin Hood" and 2000's "Gladiator"—the first film Crowe and Scott made together, which won the best-picture Oscar—was a bonus, he said.

"The 'Gladiator' vibe is pretty obvious in the marketing of the picture: him with his bow and arrows, with the haircut that looks like Maximus. But people

In this film publicity image released by Paramount Pictures, Scarlett Johansson is shown in a scene from "Iron Man 2."

AP



really love 'Gladiator,'" Dergarabedian said. "That was a great tie-in to have."

Among the other new releases, the Summit Entertainment romance "Letter to Juliet" came in at No. 3 with \$13.75 million. The film stars Amanda Seyfried as a New York journalist who travels to Verona, the setting for Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet."

"It's a delightful alternative to the tentpole pictures in the marketplace," said Chris Aronson,

senior vice president of domestic distribution for 20th Century Fox. "We got an A-minus CinemaScore so our playability is fantastic and I think our movie is just right."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com; final figures will be released Monday:

Bret Michaels makes 'Celebrity Apprentice' finals

NEW YORK (AP)—Rock star Bret Michaels will get to play the final round of "The Celebrity Apprentice."

The Poison frontman passed muster with host Donald Trump on Sunday's edition and he'll be back for next week's live conclusion. Michaels will square off against actress Holly Robinson Peete to settle who wins the NBC reality competition.

Fired Sunday were wrestler-model Maria Kanellis, Australian chef Curtis Stone, and rock-star wife and TV personality Sharon Osbourne.

"I came in here as a complete underdog," Michaels crowed after hearing the good news in Trump's boardroom. "You know what everyone's mistake was? They so underestimated me!"

Michaels' presence in the series, which through Sunday's episode had been taped months ago, stoked viewer interest after he suffered a brain hemorrhage in April that left him in intensive care. He has since been released from a Phoenix hospital. His doctor has said he is expected to make a full recovery.

The current season of "Celebrity Apprentice" began airing in March with 14 contestants, each competing in business-oriented tasks around Manhattan to raise money for (and publicize) their favorite charities.

Michaels, who as a child was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, chose the American Diabetes Association. Robinson Peete's charity is her HollyRod Foundation, whose mission is to support families who have a loved one with a serious medical condition. She has a son diagnosed as autistic.

Metal legend Ronnie James Dio dead at 67



In this July 7, 2007 file photo, Ronnie James Dio performs with British heavy metal group "Heaven and Hell" during the 41st Montreux Jazz Festival in Montreux, Switzerland.

undergone his seventh chemotherapy treatment, he was hopeful to perform again. Earlier this month, Heaven And Hell canceled its summer tour, but Dio did not view being sidelined as a permanent thing.

"Wendy, my doctors and I have worked so hard to make it happen for all of you, the ones we care so much about, that this setback could be devastating, but we will not let it be," he said in a statement. "With your continued love and support, we ... will carry on and thrive. There will be other tours, more music, more life and much more magic."

Dio rose to fame in 1975 as the first lead singer of Rainbow, the heavy metal band put together by guitarist Ritchie Blackmore, who had just quit Deep Purple.

Dio then replaced legendary vocalist Ozzy Osbourne in Black Sabbath in 1980 with the critically acclaimed album "Heaven And Hell," considered by many critics to be one of the finest heavy metal albums of all time.

Dio revealed last summer that he was suffering from stomach cancer shortly after wrapping up a tour in Atlantic City, N.J., with the latest incarnation of Black Sabbath, under the name Heaven And Hell.

"Today my heart is broken," Wendy Dio wrote on the singer's site, adding he died at 7:45 a.m. "Many, many friends and family were able to say their private goodbyes before he peacefully passed away."

"Ronnie knew how much he was loved by all," Wendy Dio continued. "We so appreciate the love and support that you have all given us ... Please know

he loved you all and his music will live on forever."

The statement was confirmed by publicist Maureen O'Connor, who said Dio died in Los Angeles. He had been treated at a Houston hospital, according to his site.

Though Dio had recently

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NOW SHOWING



Robin Hood

Friday 4:25 7:10 9:55
 Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:10 9:55
 Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:10
 Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:10

Russel Crowe, Cate Blanchett
 Adventure • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Ridley Scott helms a script by "Sleeper Cell" scribes Ethan Reiff and Cyrus Veriss as they tackle this revisionist take on the Robin Hood legend, which finds the noble Sheriff of Nottingham attempting to deal with the exploits of a less than virtuous Robin Hood while gradually being drawn into a heated love triangle involving the legendary thief and the beautiful Maid Marion.



Letters to Juliet

Friday 4:05 7:20 9:45
 Saturday 1:30 4:05 7:20 9:45
 Sunday 1:30 4:05 7:20
 Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:20

Amanda Seyfried, Chris Egan
 Comedy, Romance • Rated PG

Synopsis

An American girl discovers a love letter that changes her life in this romantic comedy starring Amanda Seyfried and Vanessa Redgrave. The setting is Verona, Italy—the city where Romeo and Juliet first met. In Verona, there's a wall where the lovelorn leave notes, hoping that Juliet will answer their inquiries about love. Sophie (Seyfried) is part of a team of volunteers who respond to the letters. When Sophie answers a letter from 1957, the woman who wrote it (Redgrave) decides to seek out the one that got away, and romance starts to blossom all around.



Iron Man 2

Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00
 Saturday 1:20 4:15 7:15 10:00
 Sunday 1:20 4:15 7:15
 Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15

Robert Downey, Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow
 Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Paramount Pictures and Marvel Entertainment present the highly anticipated sequel to the blockbuster film based on the legendary Marvel Super Hero "Iron Man," reuniting director Jon Favreau and Oscar® nominee Robert Downey Jr. In "Iron Man 2," the world is aware that billionaire inventor Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) is the armored Super Hero Iron Man. Under pressure from the government, the press and the public to share his technology with the military, Tony is unwilling to divulge the secrets behind the Iron Man armor because he fears the information will slip into the wrong hands.



Furry Vengeance

Friday 4:30 7:25 9:35
 Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:25 9:35
 Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:25
 Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25

Brendan Fraser, Brooke Shields
 Comedy, Children's/Family • Rated PG

A Nightmare on Elm Street

Friday 4:10 7:30 9:50
 Saturday 1:15 4:10 7:30 9:50
 Sunday 1:15 4:10 7:30
 Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:30

Jackie Earle Haley, Kyle Gallner
 Horror • Rated R



The Last Song

Friday 4:20 7:05 9:40
 Saturday 1:05 4:20 7:05 9:40
 Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:05
 Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:05

Miley Cyrus, Liam Hemsworth
 Drama • Rated PG

Clash Of The Titans

Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
 Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
 Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00

Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson
 Fantasy • Rated PG 13

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Bank teller Sandra Diaz-Twine wins 'Survivor'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The numbers were in Sandra Diaz-Twine's favor again on "Survivor: Heroes vs. Villains."

The brazen 34-year-old bank teller from Fayetteville, N.C., overcame fellow villains, sneaky 27-year-old former boxer Parvati Shallow and sinister 37-year-old oil company owner Russell Hantz, to win the CBS reality competition's \$1 million grand prize Sunday. Diaz-Twine also claimed the ultimate bragging right: She's the first person to win "Survivor" twice.

"It makes me the queen," Diaz-Twine said of her two-time win.

The 20th season stranded 20 veteran contestants, divided into tribes of good guys and baddies, in Samoa. Diaz-Twine ("Pearl

Islands"), who has never won a "Survivor" challenge, maneuvered into the final three after her catty alliance on the villains tribe had been previously dismantled by partners Shallow ("Cook Islands," "Micronesia") and Hantz ("Samoa").

"If she can win the game twice, there is a flaw in the game," a disgruntled Hantz said.

The lone hero left standing, 35-year-old former rancher Colby Donaldson ("Australian Outback," "All-Stars"), was quickly dispatched to the jury by the four villains at the beginning of the finale after the proud Texan failed to win immunity.

Donaldson didn't go without a fight. After delivering a surrender speech, he haggled



to be saved by Hantz.

"I've never quit anything in my life," said Donaldson, "so when the time was right, I made one more attempt."

Hantz won the final immunity challenge, which required the final four to navigate blindfolded through a maze. Hantz, Shallow and Diaz-Twine picked off 38-year-old original "Survivor" villainess Jerri Manthey ("The Australian Outback," "All-Stars"), securing themselves a spot in the final three. However, Hantz received no votes from the nine-person jury.

In this file image released by CBS, office assistant Sandra Diaz, a previous contestant on "Survivor: Pearl Islands," is shown.

AP

Woody Allen comes out in support of Polanski

CANNES, France (AP)—Woody Allen has restated his support for fellow filmmaker Roman Polanski, who is in house arrest in connection with a 33-year-old sex scandal.

Allen said Polanski "was embarrassed by the whole thing," "has suffered" and "has paid his dues." He said Polanski is "an artist and is a nice person" who "did something wrong and he paid for it."

Brad Paisley donates \$100,000 to flood relief

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Brad Paisley kicked off the first national telethon for Tennessee flood relief on Sunday with an energized version of his song "Welcome To The Future."

When he finished, he looked into the audience where his wife, movie and TV actress Kimberly Williams Paisley, was standing as the show's co-host.

"My wife's up there. I think it's time to start things off with a donation. We're going to donate \$100,000, get it going," he said, before asking his wife with a sheepish grin, "Is that OK?"

Lady Antebellum took the stage next for the show being broadcast live and commercial-free on GAC.

"Being a Nashville native, born and raised here, it's been

so beautiful to see how the city has rallied together," said singer Hillary Scott. "I know we will get back to the city that we once were. I know we will."

The trio performed an acoustic version of their No. 1 hit, "Need You Now."

Keith Urban also performed without a band, choosing to do an acoustic version of The Beatles' song "Help."

Before performing a second song, "Better Life," he recounted his personal flooding experience.

"We certainly weren't spared, our place out in Franklin, we had quite a bit of damage out there,

and other than a lot of my musical equipment which floated down the river toward Smyrna, I think is where it was seen last,

interview Saturday with France Info radio from the Cannes Film Festival. Allen had previously signed a petition calling for Polanski's release.

Allen's relationship with actress Mia Farrow ended in scandal and New York tabloid headlines in 1992, when she found out he was having an affair with her adopted daughter Soon-Yi Previn, then 22. Allen married Previn in 1997.

Earlier this week, new allegations surfaced when a British actress claimed Polanski had sexually abused her when she was 16.

It was not clear whether Allen was aware of the new allegations when he made the remarks in an

it's just been a very moving experience for me," he said.

Just over halfway through the telethon, over \$1 million had been raised.

All money will go to the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee. At least 2,000 homes were destroyed or damaged in Nashville by the deadly flooding that struck Tennessee May 1-2. Damages have been estimated at \$1.5 billion and climbing. Also expected to perform were Martina McBride, Dierks Bentley, Kellie Pickler, Rodney Atkins and others in the three-hour show.

Actor and Nashville native James Denton of "Desperate Housewives" was co-hosting the concert and telethon from Nashville's Ryman Auditorium.

White-collar woman keeps her blue-collar beau under wraps

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm a divorced, middle-aged professional woman with a Ph.D. who has been keeping company with a man my age for seven years. "Burt" treats me well. He takes me out, has helped with some major home renovation projects, sends me flowers and I enjoy his company. I'm perfectly happy in his world, and I like most of his friends.

On the flip side, Burt is overweight, has a drinking problem and never finished college. My problem is, I can't bring myself to introduce him to those in my "professional circle." I'm afraid he will say something boorish, show up drunk or otherwise embarrass me.

Is there something intrinsically wrong with me that I'm ashamed to have the man I love meet people with whom I work and socialize? Is there something wrong with the relationship?

IT'S COMPLICATED IN WISCONSIN



Dear Abby

DEAR IT'S COMPLICATED: There doesn't appear to be anything wrong with the relationship. It has worked for seven years. What's "wrong" may be that you're afraid you have "settled" for someone who isn't up to the standards of those in your professional circle. If you are happy, why do you feel you must live up to someone else's standards?

Of course, this doesn't have to be a deal breaker. If you and Burt are a happy couple, keep your personal and professional lives separate. Many couples do.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a young, single mother of two girls. I work full time and I'm involved in my daughters' lives. I go to all their school functions, coach their soccer team, serve as the Cookie Mom for Girl Scouts and volunteer for anything else I can manage to squeeze into my schedule, but I have a hard time making friends with any other moms.

None of the other mothers wants to get to know me. I wait at the bus stop with my girls and the moms talk to each other, but not to me. I get a weird "vibe" from them, as if they think I'm too young to know anything. I try to join in, but it seems they really don't care for me.

I have friends my age, but they don't have children. I want friends who have families because they face the same kind of issues I do. What can I do to make these moms like me?

FRIEND-CHALLENGED IN CYPRESS, TEXAS

DEAR FRIEND-CHALLENGED: There is no way to "make" someone like you, and if a clique has already been established, it can be difficult to break in. It is possible that because of your youth and single status you are perceived as a threat to them—but I do have a suggestion, and your youth can be an advantage. Start asking them for advice, and it's possible they may take you under their collective wing.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What is the proper way to kiss after the wedding officiant says, "You may now kiss the bride"? Should the couple share a simple kiss, or can it be a little more intense?

DANIELLE IN TAMPA

DEAR DANIELLE: The wedding is a time to demonstrate eternal commitment, not unbridled passion. The kiss can be as intense as you like, as long as it doesn't last more than six seconds, and doesn't remove the bride's lipstick.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Conan O'Brien to work from Warner's lot

NEW YORK (AP)—Conan O'Brien will host his new TBS talk show from a California studio that most recently housed "America's Best Dance Crew."

But it does have a rich movie history. His show begins in November, and will be recorded on the Warner Brothers lot in Burbank. That's close to where O'Brien did the "Tonight" show at NBC, a job he held for a little more than six months. Warners' Stage 15 was where "All The Presidents Men," "Batman Returns," "Ghostbusters," "The Perfect Storm," "The Music Man," "Grem-

lins," "Blazing Saddles" and many other films were made. O'Brien quipped: "I can't wait to interview the cast of 'Jersey Shore' on the same lot where they filmed 'Casablanca.'"

'Bombay Dream' musical to hit big screen

CANNES, France (AP)—The Indian-inspired, rags-to-riches musical "Bombay Dreams" is about to become a major motion picture. Indian director Deepa Mehta, best known for her "Elements" trilogy, will direct the movie. Oscar-winner A.R. Rahman, who composed the score for the original stage production, will write new songs for the

movie version. Andrew Lloyd Webber, the composer behind such musical hits as "The Phantom of the Opera" and "Evita," produced the stage version of the musical, which opened in London in 2002. "Monsoon Wedding" screenwriter Sabrina Dhawan will write the script, the movie's producers, Marquee Picture, said at the Cannes Film Festival. The movie will be shot on location in India. It has not yet been cast.

Music fans brave storm for Gulf Aid concert

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Music fans braved a torrential rainstorm in New Orleans for a ben-

efit concert raising money for fishermen affected by the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Lenny Kravitz, John Legend, Ani DiFranco, Allen Toussaint and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, with Mos Def, headlined the "Gulf Aid" concert Sunday. The Gulf Relief Foundation is a nonprofit formed in the spill's aftermath. It says its beneficiaries would include the region's seafood industry and the restoration of coastal wetlands. Clay Latime of New Orleans and her partner, Mindy Milam say they fear the spill's toll on wetlands will further erode the region's first line of defense against a hurricane. Milam says she just keeps thinking it's a very bad dream.

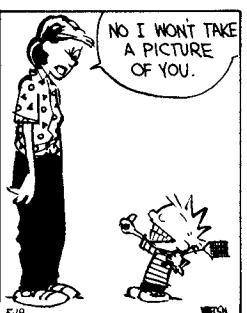
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



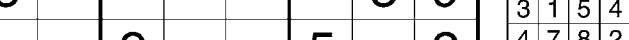
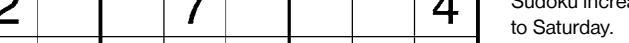
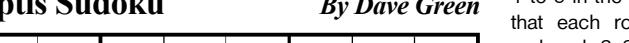
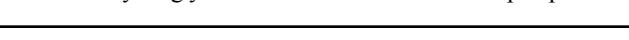
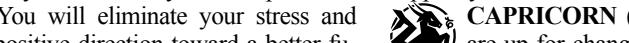
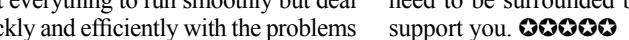
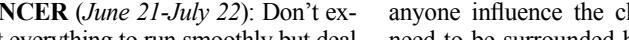
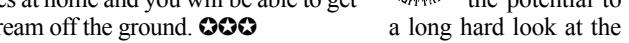
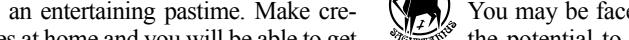
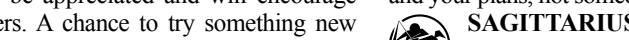
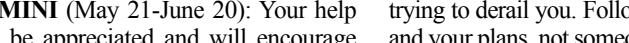
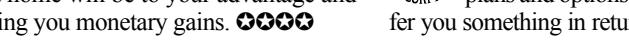
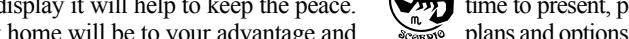
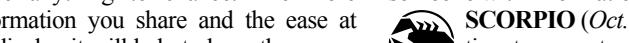
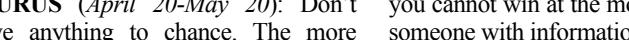
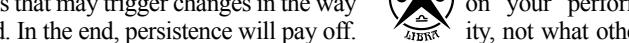
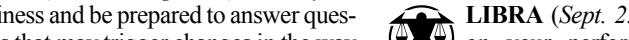
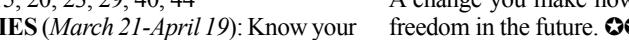
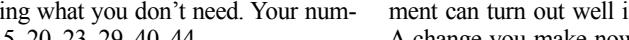
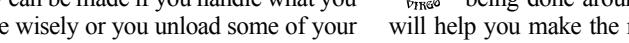
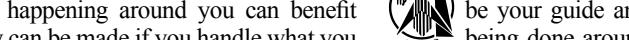
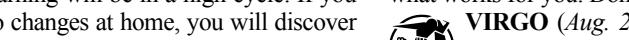
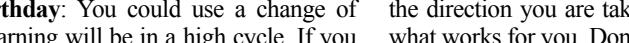
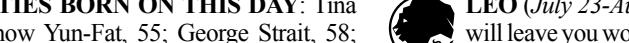
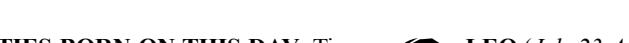
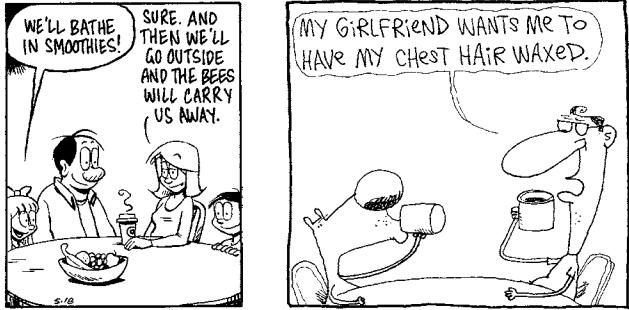
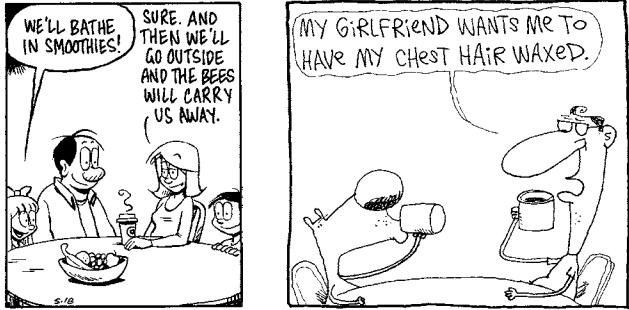
By Jim Davis

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



Celtics smother Magic, take 1-0 series lead



ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The hair is a little grayer. The ankles and knees no longer so sturdy. Even with a roster full of aging superstars, the Boston Celtics are still standing tall.

Too old to chase a title? Not these days.

Ray Allen scored 25 points, Paul Pierce had 22 and the Celtics used smothering defense to beat the Orlando Magic 92-88 on Sunday in the Eastern Conference finals opener.

Hampered by injuries, the Celtics literally limped their way through parts of the regular season. All that seems a distant memory now.

"I honestly say we lost ourselves," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "I think we've found ourselves again."

Rasheed Wallace added 13 points as the Celtics built a 20-point lead, then held on late to snap Orlando's 14-game winning streak. They held the Magic to 41 percent shooting—22 percent from 3-point range—in displaying that rough and tough defense that was once their staple.

"There were stretches in the season, we know each other so well now, where we were becoming less patient with each other," Allen said. "We were getting on each other a little too much. We can take it, but we respected each other."

"When we started the playoffs, we said teams are going to hit us, they're going to attack us. But when somebody scores on us, which they will, we go get the ball out and come back."

Vince Carter had 23 points and Jameer Nelson finished with 20 for Orlando, which cut the lead to two in the final seconds but simply ran out of time, looking rusty after a six-day layoff. Dwight Howard was limited to 13 points and 12 rebounds, nowhere near the dominant force the Magic need to win a title.

Game 2 in the best-of-seven series is Tuesday night in Orlando.



AP
Boston Celtics forward Paul Pierce (34) drives to the basket as Orlando Magic center Marcin Gortat (13), of Poland, defends during the second half in Game 1 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals in Orlando, Fla., Sunday, May 16, 2010.

"I don't think it was rusty. Just anxious," Howard said. "We dug ourselves a hole, and it was tough to get back from."

Two years removed from an NBA title, the revived Celtics might be a little slower than their paralyzing defense of old.

But, healthy again, maybe not as much as some once thought.

The Celtics built a 15-point lead in the second quarter and watched it fizzle with Howard on the bench. Backup Marcin Gortat had two layups and a dunk to help the Magic end the half with Boston ahead 41-32.

Nelson had two quick 3-pointers and another jumper to start the third, moving

Magic within three points. Then it all unraveled.

The Celtics went on a 22-5 run later in the quarter to go ahead 65-45, and a crowd littered with blue and white T-shirts—deafening at times with noise clickers and claps—was silenced. But the Magic

rallied late to cut the lead to

out Friday's round, setting up Sunday's 36-hole marathon.

Ernie Els, Aaron Baddeley and Jimmy Walker tied for third at 12 under. Els, the FedEx Cup leader, followed a third-round 69 with a 68. Baddeley also entered the day four back and shot 67 and 68. Walker had rounds of 70 and 69 and ended up with a career-best finish on the tour.

Tim Petrovic and tour rookie Garth Mulroy were 11 under.

But like Scott said—this one belonged to the Aussies.

His only blemish of the final round was on the par-5 18th, thought it nearly cost him. Scott's approach plopped in the greenside bunker, but he recovered to set up a 6-footer for par. But the putt rolled wide by a half-inch.

None better than him.

Rallying from four strokes back for his first PGA Tour victory in two years, Scott was 11 under in a 36-hole Sunday finale at the Texas Open, edging Frederik Jacobson by a stroke on the new Oaks Course at TPC San Antonio.

"I had a feeling Aussies would do well here this week," Scott said.

None better than him.

Rallying from four strokes back for his first PGA Tour victory in two years, Scott was 11 under in a 36-hole Sunday finale at the Texas Open, edging Frederik Jacobson by a stroke on the new Oaks Course at TPC San Antonio.

The course was designed by Scott's hero, fellow countrymen Greg Norman, who sent a congratulatory message after

Scott's first win since the Australian Open in December.

Norman's note meant a lot to Scott. So did this victory.

"I questioned myself at times last year whether I was a great player or not," Scott said. "I still feel I am."

The 29-year-old Scott finished at 14-under 274 and earned \$1,098,000 for his seventh tour victory and first since the 2008 Byron Nelson Classic.

He overcame two early bogeys with an eagle on the par-4 17th in his third-round 66, then built his lead with six birdies en route to a closing 67.

Scott also survived a closing bogey—his only one in the final round—when Jacobson missed a 16-footer from the fringe on No. 18 that would've forced a playoff.

It was a long final day. More than 3 inches of rain had washed

Good thing it was just a little one.

Still, it gave Jacobson a chance.

He started the day three strokes back but shot up the leaderboard with a bogey-free 7-under 65 in the third round. But the 35-year-old Swede couldn't keep up that pace over the final 18.

Jacobson finished with a 70 and another bogey-free round. But he struggled this time to break par, two-putting six of his first nine holes before finally sinking a 7-footer for birdie on No. 12.

Relieved, Jacobson threw his hands up in victory when the putt dropped.

But his final birdie was on the par-4 15th.

Jacobson was unable to replicate the five straight birdies he sank on hole Nos. 14 through 18 in the first round that morning.

Kobe has nothing to say about LeBron's demise

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Nike can put those puppets back on the shelf for another summer. Basketball historians anticipating the real-life answers to a delicious theoretical debate must keep waiting.

LeBron is gone, from the playoffs and maybe from Cleveland. James' long-anticipated NBA finals clash with Kobe Bryant is off again, and it's now distinctly possible it will never happen.

Yet if Bryant was even slightly disappointed to learn that James won't be showing up for a possible career-defining showdown, the Los Angeles Lakers star isn't letting on.

Bryant had almost nothing to say Friday about the Cleveland Cavaliers' playoff elimination, which ruined the best chance yet for a finals meeting with James.

"I don't know," Bryant said when asked what he thought of Boston's Game 6 victory, before an awkward silence with the phalanx of television cameras and digital recorders pointed at him in a back corner of the Lakers' training complex.

Surely Bryant realizes the anticipation was extra-high this spring, after the superstars' teams finished atop their respective conferences with two of the NBA's top three records. Nike certainly spent many months hoping for the showcase of two top clients, building that unusual advertising campaign around their puppet replicas.

But while James begins his offseason, Bryant is still standing—albeit on a gimp ankle—after persevering through an injury-riddled year. The veteran star won't slow down for the Western Conference finals just because King James isn't waiting on the other side.

The series against the Phoenix Suns begins Monday night in Los Angeles.

"We have a huge challenge on our hands with the things that they run and how they play," Bryant said. "You have to control the pace and control the turnovers."

Bryant didn't practice again for the Lakers, giving him four straight days off the court following their second-round sweep of the Utah Jazz. Bryant needs every possible minute to rest his troublesome ankle, his arthritic finger and a few other maladies that have turned this season into a grind.

Kubel's slam off Rivera powers Twins past Yankees



NEW YORK (AP) —

Jason Kubel hit a stunning grand slam off Mariano Rivera with two outs in the eighth inning as the Minnesota Twins ended a nine-game losing streak against the New York Yankees with a 6-3 victory Sunday.

Rivera replaced Joba Chamberlain (1-2) with the bases loaded and a 3-1 lead and walked Jim Thome. Kubel pulled a drive into the seats in right, startling the crowd of 46,628.

Kubel's third homer of the season and sixth career slam ended a string of 51 straight converted save opportunities for Rivera at home, equaling the major league record set by Eric Gagne with the Dodgers. It was the first grand slam off Rivera since Bill Selby's game-ending shot for Cleveland on July 14, 2002.

Rivera hadn't allowed a run in 11 innings this year. The ace closer issued his fourth career bases-loaded walk and first since May 6, 2005, before allowing his fourth grand slam, according to STATS LLC.

Jon Rauch gave up two singles to start the ninth, then struck out Derek Jeter, Brett Gardner and Mark Teixeira to hold on for his 10th save in 11 chances.

Nick Blackburn (4-1) helped the Twins beat New York for the first time since Aug. 13, 2008. They had lost 12 straight overall against the Yankees, counting the sweep in last year's AL division series.

Rays 2, Mariners 1

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Sean Rodriguez delivered a seventh-inning double and Gabe Kapler added an eight-inning sacrifice fly as the Tampa Bay Rays overcame a frustrating afternoon against Cliff Lee to rally past the Seattle Mariners.

Lee (1-2) took a 1-0 lead into the seventh, limiting the team with baseball's best record to doubles by B.J. Upton and Willy Aybar up to that point. Upton doubled again with one out in the seventh, then scored when Rodriguez followed with his hit off the right-center field wall.

Carl Crawford tripled into the left-field corner, just beyond the reach of Michael Saunders, and scored on Kapler's sacrifice fly.

Dan Wheeler (2-0) retired the only two batters he faced to get the win. Rafael Soriano got three outs for his 10th save in 10 opportunities.

Tigers 5, Red Sox 1

At Detroit, Ramon Santiago hit a two-run homer and Armando Galarraga was sharp in his first start of the season as the Tigers became the first team to win four straight series at home against reigning playoff teams since 1995.

The Tigers took two of three against

Boston after winning three of four over the defending champion Yankees, sweeping the Angels and beating the Twins in two of three games.

Galaraga (1-0) gave up one run on three hits over 5 2-3 innings, while John Lackey (4-2) allowed five runs on nine hits and four walks over seven innings for Boston.

Angels 4, Athletics 0

At Anaheim, Joel Pineiro pitched a three-hitter for his sixth career shutout, Bobby Abreu hit a two-run homer as Los Angeles completed a three-game sweep of the Oakland Athletics.

Pineiro (3-4) struck out five, walked one and threw just 98 pitches.

Trevor Cahill (1-2) allowed three runs, five hits and no walks over seven innings.

Indians 5, Orioles 1

At Baltimore, Jake Westbrook worked around nine hits for his 13th career complete game, while Matt LaPorta and Russell Branyan homered for the Indians.

Westbrook (2-2) didn't pitch at all last season while recovering from reconstructive right elbow surgery. He was 0-2 in his first six starts this year.

Westbrook missed his fourth career shutout when Luke Scott hit a two-out homer in the ninth. The right-hander struck out eight and walked none.

Royals 5, White Sox 3

At Kansas City, Brian Bannister pitched six strong innings, Jose Guillen drove in three runs and the Kansas City Royals beat the Chicago White Sox.

Bannister (2-3), who had lost his previous two starts while allowing 11 runs in nine innings, retired 13 of 14 in one stretch.

Guillen, who had hit .127 in his previous 18 games, had an RBI single in the Royals' three-run fourth, then singled home two more in the fifth.

Joakim Soria finished for his ninth save in 11 opportunities.

Blue Jays 5, Rangers 2

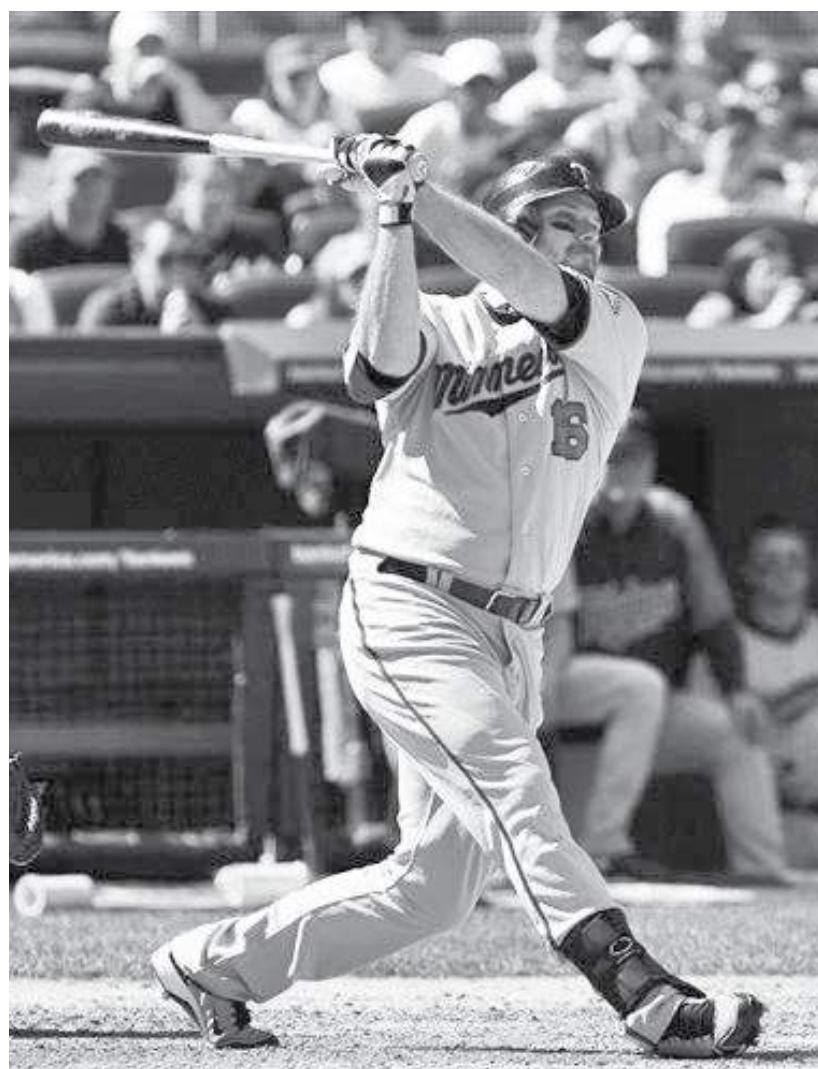
At Toronto, Brandon Morrow rebounded from the shortest start of his career, Jose Bautista homered for the third time in two games and the Toronto Blue Jays complete a three-game sweep.

The game drew 25,518, Toronto's biggest home crowd since opening day.

Morrow (3-3) allowed two runs and eight hits in six-plus innings and struck out eight. Kevin Gregg finished in the ninth for his 11th save. Colby Lewis (3-2) took the loss.

Dodgers 1, Padres 0

At San Diego, Russell Martin's RBI single was one of only two hits for the Los Angeles Dodgers, who beat the first-place San Diego Padres for a three-game sweep and their season-



Minnesota Twins' Jason Kubel hits a grand slam during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees, Sunday, May 16, 2010, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

high seventh straight victory.

The Dodgers, playing again without Andre Ethier, won for the 12th time in 15 games.

Chad Billingsley (4-2) shut down the Padres over 7 1-3 innings, allowing just four singles, striking out six and walking one. Jonathan Broxton pitched a perfect ninth for his third save.

Padres starter Wade LeBlanc (2-1) allowed only two baserunners the first five innings, both on walks, and one of them was erased in a double play.

Phillies 4, Brewers 2

At Milwaukee, Cole Hamels pitched into the seventh inning despite giving up back-to-back home runs as Philadelphia completed a three-game sweep of the Brewers.

Hamels helped out on offense, too, delivering a sharp RBI double in the second.

Casey McGehee and Corey Hart homered for the Brewers, who also were swept at home by the Atlanta Braves this week.

Hamels (4-2) held the Brewers scoreless until McGehee homered the sixth. Hart followed with a drive of his own, cutting the Phillies lead to 3-2. But that was all the Brewers could muster

off Hamels, who gave up six hits with three walks and three strikeouts in 6 2-3 innings.

It was a serviceable start on short notice for Milwaukee's Dave Bush (1-4), whose turn in the rotation was moved up when scheduled starter Doug Davis was scratched earlier in the day.

Davis has been diagnosed with pericarditis, an inflammation of the membrane surrounding the heart.

Giants 4, Astros 3

At San Francisco, Barry Zito earned his sixth win of the season and Aaron Rowand hit a go-ahead home run in the sixth inning as the Giants finished a three-game sweep.

Andres Torres homered, doubled and scored twice for the Giants, who have won eight straight games against the Astros dating to 2009. Zito (6-1) rebounded nicely from his only loss of the season, scattering six hits over seven innings while striking out four with one walk.

Brian Wilson pitched around two hits to earn his ninth save.

Carlos Lee homered for Houston, which has lost three straight following a season-high four-game winning streak. Brett Myers (2-3) went eight innings for the loss.

Rockies 2, Nationals 1

At Denver, Brad Hawpe hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the eighth, and Colorado won after Jeff Francis threw seven sharp innings in his first start since September 2008.

The Rockies scored their first run of the game on Miguel Olivo's sacrifice fly.

Pinch hitter Seth Smith began their winning rally in the eighth by drawing a walk off Tyler Clippard (7-2). Carlos Gonzalez singled, Dexter Fowler bunted and Hawpe hit a deep fly ball.

Reds 7, Cardinals 2

At Cincinnati, Scott Rolen homered and drove in three runs, helping the surging Reds move a half game ahead of St. Louis following their seventh win in eight games.

The Reds haven't been in first place this deep into a season since June 2006.

Rolen hit a two-run homer and a run-scoring single off Brad Penny (3-4), who had never lost at Great American Ball Park. Bronson Arroyo (3-2) pitched his first complete game—a seven-hitter—and added a bases-loaded single.

Cubs 4, Pirates 3

At Chicago, pinch-hitter Xavier Nady lined a go-ahead single in the eighth inning as the Cubs rallied to their first victory over the Pirates after seven straight losses.

Alfonso Soriano singled off D.J. Carrazco (1-1) with one out in the eighth, stole second and went to third on a wild pitch. After Geovany Soto drew a two-out walk, Nady singled to right field for his first pinch-hit since July 19, 2008—when he was with the Pirates.

Nady had been 0 for 9 as a pinch-hitter this season.

Marlins 10, Mets 8

At Miami, pinch-hitter Chris Coghlan hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning as the Marlins completed their first four-game sweep since August 2006.

Two Mets errors helped the Marlins score four unearned runs en route to a 7-0 lead. New York cut the margin to 7-6 before Coghlan's homer off Fernando Nieve. Mets left-hander Jonathon Niese (1-2) departed after re-injuring his right hamstring, which required season-ending surgery last Aug. 6. He'll return to New York for further evaluation.

Braves 13, Diamondbacks 1

At Atlanta, Tim Hudson gave up three hits in eight innings and Martin Prado hit two home runs to lead the Braves to their fifth win in six games.

Prado had four hits and drove in three runs, while Eric Hinske and Troy Glaus also had homers for Atlanta. The Braves finished with 14 hits while Arizona managed only the three.

Last year, one of the grant recipients—Douglass High School—went on to play for the Class 4A state championship in Oklahoma.

"It gives some validity to what we're doing when you get stories like that in Douglass and what they've been able to do," Welker said. "It definitely helps when those programs are really kind of turning around."

As his foundation continues to grow, Welker said he's open to expanding its reach into Boston or "wherever a need is."

Pats' Welker needed surgery on only 1 ligament



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — New England Patriots wide receiver Wes Welker says he injured two knee ligaments last

season, but only one required surgery.

The NFL's receptions leader said Saturday at the Wes Welker Foundation's football camp that the anterior cruciate and medial collateral ligaments in his left knee were injured dur-

ing the Patriots' final regular-season game. Welker, who missed the playoffs, says the MCL didn't require surgery and "if you have that healing on its own, it almost becomes stronger."

"We just had to wait for it to heal," Welker said. "We didn't have to do surgery on it." Welker still isn't certain when he'll return to the field, but says the fact he didn't need surgery on the MCL was "great news."

"It's hard to put a timetable on anything," Welker said. "And plus, whenever you put a timetable on it, now people expect you. If you're not ready then, they're like, 'What's wrong?'

"I'm going to be back when I'm ready, and I'm just going to work as hard as I can to be back as early as I can."

Welker said he's doing limited rehab when it comes to position drills, but trainers have him doing work with

weights and stretching bands.

"The trainers have me in all sorts of crazy positions, trying to make sure I'm doing the right things," Welker said.

A "Cleats and Cocktails" fundraiser Friday night raised between \$220,000 and \$230,000 for Welker's foundation, which focuses on building recreational centers and athletic fields intended to keep at-risk children focused on sports instead and out of trouble.

MATANSA

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goals for MP United, making a corner kick in the first half and then sprinting for a go-ahead goal in the second half.

Joining Wang on the champion team are Bradley Brostrom, Bo and Chris Barry, Jin Han Yoon, Seoung Joon Lee, Bruce Li, Kunhan Cook, Caleb Arriola, Edward Jin, Josh Borja, Moon Bin

PICT

From Page 28

drelon made only a triple, as he was bounded by PIC defenders, while Carino logged only one field goal, as he spent most of the third period on the bench.

Fiesta Resort tried to rally back in the fourth, but Barbo and company hung in there. After trailing by as much as 17 points, 71-54, Fiesta moved within seven, 66-73, but Barbo made a crucial steal, canned a triple, and then a layup. James Abuy completed the 7-0 swing with a short jumper to put PIC comfortably ahead, 78-54, with less than four minutes left on the clock.

Barbo exploded for 30 points, while

Hong, Dae Min Jeon, Stacy Macaranas, Max Han, Greg Kim, Young Jun Jeon, and Sung Min Ahn.

Wang also drilled two goals in MP United's 4-2 semifinals win over Matansa. In the other semis pairing, Paire eliminated Independents after prevailing in a shootout, 3-1. In the battle for third, Matansa defeated Independents, which lost to MP United in last year's spring football league finals, 1-2.

In the girls division, there was a re-

Abuy chipped in 15.

In the second game, Aqua Resort withstood Mobil's second half rally to pull off a three-point win.

Aqua Resort led by as much as 18 in the first half, before Mobil made it an interesting game in the third period, cutting the lead to five, 62-67. Mobil then grabbed the lead in the fourth, 68-66 and was still ahead, 81-77, with less than two minutes left on the clock.

However, Mobil committed four crucial turnovers, while Aqua Resort hit a couple of free throws to regain the lead and take the win.

Jessie Mina made a pair of free throws to move Aqua within two, 79-81, and then Glenn Aquino nailed another charity, chopping Mobil's lead to one, 80-81, with 51 left in the match.

Ray Duenas exploded for 39 points for Team 10, making most of them on breakaway layups, while Jerome Reyes added 26. Nat Banatasa also finished in double figures with 17.

Team 10 led after the first frame, 25-15, before Tasi Tours tied the game at the break, 44-all. However, Team 10 pulled away again in the third period and kept the double-digit lead in the final canto.

QQ Rent a Car 71, Moonlight 62

In the last game of the day, QQ Rent a Car notched its third straight victory after a 71-62 triumph over Moonlight.

QQ Rent a Car held Moonlight to seven points in the first period for a 22-7 lead

walks immediately after the Hustlers' pitching change.

Richard Dela Cruz started the bottom of the seventh for the Lions in relief for Ricardo Dela Cruz on the mound to close out the last inning; Richard secured the save three batters later.

Notables of the game include Lions winning pitcher Ricardo Dela Cruz, who went six innings and allowed four earned runs with five strikeouts, six hits, and three walks. In addition to his save, Richard Dela Cruz batted 2-for-3 with three runs, a walk, and a stolen base. Arthur Jebehn batted 1-for-3 with two runs and a walk.

Hunters 7, Fielders 2

After a scoreless first inning, Hunters star pitcher Joseph Palacios struck out the side 1-2-3 and his offense attacked first with three runs in the bottom of the second.

They scored two runs from Richard Dela Cruz and Dominic Chargualaf.

Dela Cruz hit a one-out single, stole

IT&E

From Page 28

losing cause, scoring 27 markers, while Melvin Villarin contributed 22.

IT&E had a jackrabbit start, leading by 20 at the end of the first period, 30-10, forcing Ebisuya to play catch up most of the time.

Team 10 99, Tasi Tours 84

In the third game, Team 10 nailed its third win in five games after whipping Tasi Tours, 99-84.

Team 10 capitalized on the absence of Tasi Tour gunner Tony Diaz to post an easy win.

LIONS

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Rabago laid down a sacrifice bunt that scored McGarette Duenas who reached earlier with a one-out triple.

Then, before scoring himself off an error, Antonio Taitano singled in Manny Flores who drew a two-out walk.

With the score at 4-2, the Lions went 1-2-3 in the top of the fifth and the Hustlers added a run to their lead in the bottom half.

Before getting picked off at second to close out the fifth, Jeremy Lizama singled in Raymond Villagomez who reached earlier with a two-out single.

Down by three, the Lions came out in the top of the sixth and clawed their way back into the game.

They scored two runs from Richard Dela Cruz and Dominic Chargualaf.

Dela Cruz hit a one-out single, stole second and scored off an error and Chargualaf singled in Leo Blas who reached off an error with two outs.

The Lions also bit back on defense and forced the Hustlers to go 1-2-3 in the bottom half.

The Lions took the momentum with them to take the lead in the top of the seventh.

With one out, Greg Iskawa scored the tying run off a passed ball after reaching off an error.

Ater Iskawa scored and the Hustlers opted to relieve their starting pitcher, Jeremy Lizama.

Three batters later, Leo Blas belted a two RBI triple that brought in Jebehn and Richard Dela Cruz who both drew

match between Matansa and Paire and this time the former prevailed, 3-0.

Phalai Frink scored the first goal for Matansa in the first half, while Madison Smith found the back of the net twice in the second half for the team's shutout win.

Besides Frink and Smith, other members of Matansa are Elisa Fejerman, Jhaneeka Atalig, Naomi Lynee Cabrera, Madisa Onni, Michio Tenorio, Olivia Leung, Rima Halaby, Jacque Wonenberg,

A Gyles Ruluked inbound pass was intercepted by Gil Gapor, leading to a Pedro Lizama basket and giving Aqua Resort the advantage, 82-81. Another inbound error returned possession to Aqua Resort and later sent Aquino to the stripe, anew. Aquino had a split, upping Aqua Resort's lead to two and Mobil muffed a chance to tie the game when Jun Estolas lost the ball on his way to the basket.

Mobil fouled Mina to stop the clock, which read six seconds, and the Aqua Resort forward split his free throws for an 84-81 lead. Ruluked inbounded the ball midcourt in Mobil's last possession, but his pass to Estolas was stolen by Lizama, who went up for a layup and missed as time expired.

and the former never looked back.

Teddy Bugay led QQ Rent a Car with 21 points, while Warren Villegas and Claude Calvo added 18 and 15, respectively.

First Game

99ers win by default against Team 12.

Second Game

IT&E 82 – Mendoza 28, Fernandez 12, Palacios 12, Berline 9, Yamada 8, Gabaldon 7, Palacios 5.

Ebisuya 79 – Opone 27, Villarin 22, Ocampo 10, Tabora 8, Moises 5, Yalung 3.

Scoring by quarters: 30-10, 44-27, 60-50, 82-79

The Hunters answered with two runs in the bottom half and added one more in the bottom of the sixth before Palacios closed out the seventh for the win.

Joseph Palacios pitched a complete seven innings and allowed two earned runs with eight strikeouts, three hits, and five walks.

Other notables include Palmerson Monkeya who batted 3-for-3 with a double, two RBIs, and a run. Eloy Cruz batted 2-for-3 with two RBIs and a run.

Ol'Aces 31, D-9ers 2

The first place Ol'Aces pummeled the D-9ers in their weekend matchup at the Oleai Sports Complex ballfield.

After the visiting D-9ers went 1-2-3 to start the first, Ol'Aces scored 11 runs in the bottom half off only five hits.

Four stolen bases, three wild pitches, a passed ball, three walks, three errors, and a hit by pitch also contributed to Ol'Aces' runaway inning.

Diego Camacho, Lamarc Iguel, and Harry Nakamura each came around to score twice.

With one out and the bases loaded, Thyce Tutti drew a walk that brought the third run of the game to the plate. This caused the D-9ers to call on relief pitcher Zackary Aldan in for their starter Vince Castro.

John Santi then delivered a two-RBI single shortly followed, an out later, by a two-RBI single from Iguel. Four more runs would come in before the D-9ers could escape the first.

The D-9ers scored their only two runs of the game in the top of the second from Ben Lizama who scored off an error before singling in Aldan who led off

Paila Race, Maria Magdalena Reyes, Jhuminly Esposo, and Sonya Lizama.

Wonenberg won the Golden Boot award for the girls division with her four goals in eight games, while Matansa's Vince Palacios claimed the same plum in the boys division after making eight goals in eight games.

Each player from Matansa and MP United received miniature championship trophies during the brief awards ceremony besides the perpetual trophies.

First Game

PIC 82 – D. Barbo 30, Abuy 15, Sublemente 8, Jung 7, Williams 7, Yabut 6, K. Barbo 4, Babauta 4.

Fiesta 74 – Esdrelon 23, Usi 16, Carino 8, J. Ong 8, Jinang 6, Moran 4, Mejia 2, Valdez 2, dela Torre 2, Galag 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-20, 34-42, 62-51, 82-74.

Second Game

Aqua 84 – Lizama 22, Aquino 17, Mina 17, Gapor 12, Johanes 4, Mc. Achas 6, Mi. Achas 4.

Mobil 81 – Estolas 31, Manalo 18, Ajobe 17, Ruluked 11, Torres 2, Galozote 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-17, 50-35, 67-62, 84-81.

Third Game

Team 10 99 – Duenas 39, Reyes 26, Banatasa 17, Serrano 8, Geoff 5, Cruz 2.

Tasi Tours 84 – Geli 37, Alejandro 16, Camacho 12, Ancheta 4, Cabrera 4, Sablan 4, R. Cruz 3, Kani 2, Sahagun 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-15, 44-44, 70-58, 99-84.

Third Game

QQ Rent A Car 71 – Bugay 21, Villegas 18, Calvo 15, Liberato 6, Alfonso 6, Pablo 3.

Moonlight 61 – Masga 32, Peleno 8, Gomez 6, Patricio 4, Malibanag 4, Takai 2, Caro 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-7, 36-21, 55-35, 71-62.

earlier with a double.

But Ol'Aces never let up and added six more in the bottom half.

After Leonard Sablan scored off an error after drawing a lead off walk, Diego Camacho and Jesse Yamagishi each hit RBI with triples before Iguel unloaded a two-run homer with one out. Nakamura later singled and scored off an outfield error.

The deflated D-9ers were flustered and could not get anything started with the sticks.

Ol'Aces, on the other hand, were just merciless and poured 11 more runs on their 15-run lead in the bottom half of the third.

After second Ol'Aces batter Jake Santos singled in Sablan with zero outs the D-9ers called on second reliever Ben Lizama to the mound for Aldan.

Later in the third, Jesse Yamagishi hit his second RBI triple and Leonard Sablan, Jake Santos, and Camacho each scored twice for Ol'Aces in the third.

Aside from the second inning, the D-9ers batted 1-2-3 in every other inning.

Ol'Aces added three more runs in the fourth before Ol'Aces winning pitcher Lemarc Iguel closed the last three outs. Iguel pitched five short innings and allowed an earned run with five strikeouts, two hits, and no walks. Iguel also provided the biggest chunk of offense for his team batting 4-for-5 with a homerun, five RBIs, four runs, a walk, and two stolen bases.

Other notables included Diego Camacho who batted 4-for-5 with three RBIs, five runs, a stolen base, and a hit by pitch. Jesse Yamagishi batted 2-for-2 with two triples, two RBIs, two runs, and a walk.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**MLB STANDINGS****EASTERN CONFERENCE****East Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	26	11	.703	—
New York	24	13	.649	2
Toronto	23	16	.590	4
Boston	19	19	.500	7 1/2
Baltimore	12	26	.316	14 1/2

Central Division

Minnesota	23	14	.622	—
Detroit	22	16	.579	1 1/2
Cleveland	15	20	.429	7
Chicago	15	22	.405	8
Kansas City	14	24	.368	9 1/2



Basket Case, Bon-Faiyah triumph

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Basket Case secured its third win in a row, following a 55-43 victory over Team 5 in the 2010 Marianas Variety Women's Basketball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Mercedes Mesa and Ira Palero teamed up in Basket Case's victory, firing 22 and 16 points, respectively. Basket Case now has a 3-1 record, absorbing its only loss during the opening of the league early this month.

Basket Case outgunned Team 5 in all four quarters after getting contributions from Mesa and Palero. Palero had 10 points in the first period, giving Basket Case a 16-12 lead. Mesa, who logged only two points in the opening quar-

ter, nailed eight, 22-14. However, Bon-Faiyah began pulling away in the second quarter to take a 44-36 advantage at the break, 30-24.



ter, nailed eight, 22-14. However, Bon-Faiyah began pulling away in the second quarter to take a 44-36 advantage at the break, 30-24.

Palero had only four points in the second half, but Mesa was still on target, hitting 12 more points to power Basket Case to a double-digit win.

Team 5 dropped to a 0-4 record, as captain Amy Sletten was held to a field goal each in the first three quarters, before making six in the fourth. Lalaine Pagarao almost single-handedly carried the team, firing 13 in the first three periods, but was limited to two points in the final canto.

In the first game, Bon-Faiyah snapped its two-game losing skid with an 81-45 demolition of the Lady Eagles.

Connie Camacho and Yvonne Bennett scored 20-plus points for Bon-Faiyah with the former recording 25 and the latter adding 21. Stacie Mizutani and Becky Mettao also finished in double figures, chipping in 18 and 13, respectively.

The Lady Eagles kept pace with Bon-Faiyah only in the first period with the

latter ahead by eight, 22-14. However, Bon-Faiyah began pulling away in the second quarter to take a 44-36 advantage at the break and the lead ballooned to 30, 60-30, as the Lady Eagles scored only four points in the third period.

The Lady Eagles remained winless in four games, while Bon-Faiyah improved to a 2-2 record.

First Game

Bon-Faiyah 81 – Camacho 25, Bennett 21, Mizutani 18, Mettao 13, Benavente 2, Diaz 2.

Lady Eagles 45 – Smith 15, Chen 12, Pritchard 8, Perez 4, Wonenberg 4, Jia 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-14, 44-26, 60-30, 82-45.

Second Game

Basket Case 55 – Mesa 22, I. Palero 16, J. Palero 7, Bennett 4, Castillo 4, Oveson 2.

Team 5 43 – Pagarao 15, Sletten 12, Hofschneider 8, Javier 4, Michaleun 4.

Scoring by quarters: 16-12, 30-24, 44-35, 55-43.

Island Rebels force tie for lead with Natibu

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

 Island Rebels whipped Natibu, 13-3, in the curtain-raiser in the Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League on Friday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The win was the 17th in 19 games for Island Rebels, putting them in a tie for first place with Natibu. Island Rebels allowed Natibu to score only in the fourth inning to nail the win after only five innings via a 10-run mercy rule.

Roy Celis went 4-for-4 for Island Rebels and scored three runs, one homer, and two RBIs. Jeff Isaac was 2-for-3 and also hit a two-run homer in the fourth inning. Wally Chong had

only one RBI, but hit 3-for-3 at bat.

Hitz 9, San Roque 8

Hitz had a four-run bottom of the seventh to pull off a come-from-behind 9-8 win over San Roque.

Hitz was down, 5-8, going into the last inning when Jun Kaipat and Frank Ilo made crucial hits to lift the team to its 12th win and keep its playoffs bid alive. Hitz holds a 12-8 record for ninth place in the team standings. Only the Top 10 teams will advance to the playoffs.

Kaipat had a two-run single in the last inning, Ilo hit a one-run single, while Chris George had a sacrifice fly to give Hitz the needed run.

Berdax 16, Team Familia 8

Berdax shut out Team Familia in the

first three innings and in the last two to cruise to a 16-8 win.

On offense, Berdax had a nine-run top of the third for a commanding 12-0 lead after three complete innings.

Bill Camacho and Asap Ogunoro scored three RBIs each in Berdax's win.

Blazers 15, Red Eye 5

In the last game of the night, the Blazers made short work of Red Eye, 15-5.

The Blazers won after only four and a half innings, as they allowed Red Eye to score only in the third inning.

Joe Lifoifoi went 2-for-4 and scored two runs, one double, and three RBIs. Kevin Kalen and Rodney Lifoifoi were both perfect at the plate, going 3-for-3. Kalen added three runs and two RBIs, while Lifoifoi had two runs and one RBI.

UFO cage meeting tonight

 Interested teams for the 2010 United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League are asked to attend a meeting tonight at 7pm at the Filipino Workers Resource Center office at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

League regulations and other details will be discussed at the meeting. A draw will also be held to determine participating teams' uniform color assignments.

The first meeting for the UFO caging was originally scheduled last Saturday, but organizers decided to reset it, as representatives of interested teams had earlier commitments.

This year's UFO caging will kick off on June 6 with competitions in the open and masters divisions.

The league will have a new format for the open division, allowing each team to recruit two non-Filipino players. One of the two reinforcements must be a local and the other could be of any nationality.

The new eligibility rules will be applied only to the open division. It is mandatory for each team to have one local player on their roster, according to UFO official Paul Madriaga.

In the masters division, eligibility rules are the same with the open for division players in the 37-and-above age group.

Entrance fee in each division is \$500.

This year's defending champion in the open division is MDX-Chow Queen Bakery, which swept Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense-Marianas Wireless in best-of-three title series. Ebisuya-Northern Marianas Bartenders Association is the defending champion in the masters division, following its title series win over Cabalen, 2-1. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
SIP's Alex Lauron, left, and SMF's Jomary Tumaquip battle for the rebound during last year's UFO caging at the JP Center Basketball Court.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Young Nam Gu, left, is seen here battling Chris "No Love" Laayug in the Rites of Passage 8: Fearless in February this year at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort.

Trench Wars 12 fighters required to attend meeting

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

All fighters and mixed martial arts teams participating in Trench Warz 12: Battle Brawl are required to appear at the Trench Tech Gym tomorrow, May 19, or Thursday, May 20, between 4pm and 5pm for contract and waiver form signing.

Additionally, Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez said the official weigh-ins and rules meeting for the May 21 bout at Saipan World Resort's Taga Hall Ballroom will be held at Club V at the Saipan Grand Hotel on Thursday, May 20, from 5pm to 7pm.

For questions or more information, call Alvarez at 483-4MMA.

Three Korean Top Team fighters will be featured as the triple main event for Trench Warz 12.

Returning Korean Top Team Pro fighter Young Nam "The HIPPO" Gu will go up against Trench Tech's Trench Tech's Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan in the 145-lb. weight division.

Ahn Sang Il, for his part, will battle Guam's undefeated welterweight Rob "The Beast" Washington in the 170-lb. division.

Yang Dong Yi, meanwhile, will be pitted against Saipan's tough stand-up brawler and infamous giant killer "Kill" Bill Saures from Team XX-TREME in the 190-lb. weight class. The following is the rest of the fight card in Trench Tech 12:

■ Trench Tech's Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez vs. Team Zalaka's Lyle Deleon Guerrero in a K-1 kickboxing match;

■ Team Zalaka's Roger Mai vs. Team Haga T's Jordan "Jungle Boy" Ogo in the 130-lb. division;

■ Team Predator Combat's "Tabi" Jay Muna vs. Jun "Shockeraba" San Nicolas in the 135-lb. division;

■ Team Zengzung Tinian's Craig "Earthquake" Borja vs. Team Haga T's, C.J. "Face" Takai in the 145-lb. division.

■ Marianas Elite's Derrick "El Pelegro" Rangamar vs. Team Countershot Guam's Jon "The Heat" Delos Reyes in the 145-lb. division;

■ Marianas Elite's Martin "Spartan" Ayuyu vs. Team Countershot Guam's Josh "The Hedgehog" Alvarez in the 140-lb. division;

■ Team Zalaka's Ben Duenas vs. Spike 22 Guam's Mikey Taitano in the 165-lb. division; and

■ Team Predator's Styx Castro vs. Team XX-TREME Dino Fiyi Mettao's in the 175-lb. division.

The last undercard fight will be a 140-lb. bout featuring Trench Tech's own Alverick "Pretty Boy" Alvarez; the opponent is still yet to be determined.

General admission tickets cost \$25 with VIP passes are marked at \$40.

Tickets are on sale now at all Trench Warz outlets—Boarderline, The 670 Rocksteady Shop, Hannam Market, Mobil Kagman, and the Trench Tech Gym.





Celtics smother
Magic, take 1-0
series lead

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Matansa, MP United claim U18 titles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United clinched back-to-back boys U18 titles, while Matansa grabbed the championship from Paire, following Saturday's 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Spring League Festival at the Hopewood Junior High School Field. MP United took the boys championship after a 2-0 win over Paire Football Club in the finals, while Matansa also foiled Paire's title bid with a 3-0 triumph in the girls' championship game.

Yishan Wang scored the twin
See MATANSA on Page 26

PIC, Aqua enter semis in Shirley's caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club and Aqua Resort Club booked semifinals tickets in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League after slipping past separate foes on Sunday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

No. 11 seed PIC stunned the third seeded Fiesta Resort in the first game, 81-74, while No. 5 Aqua Resort also pulled off an upset against the No. 4 Mobil, 84-81, to notch the first two semis berths in the 15-team league.

Shirtley's COFFEE SHOP will face in the semis the winner of the World Resort-AON/NJ Pro Plus on Wednesday. World Resort/Advance and AON were battling for the third semis ticket last night. Also scheduled to meet last night were Micronesian Brokers, Inc. and McGraw-Hill with the winner dueling Aqua Resort for the fourth semis slot.

PIC shattered Fiesta Resort's dreams for a semis stint after limiting the latter to nine points in the third period.

Fiesta Resort led at the break, 42-34, but went scoreless in the first three and a half minutes of the second half and was held to four points in first eight minutes of the third period.

In contrast, PIC's offense was in tune in the third period with Darwin Barbo taking advantage of Fiesta Resort's lack



MP United, left, and Matansa players show their miniature trophies after both teams beat Paire in the boys and girls U18 finals, respectively, of the NMIFA youth football spring league on Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. Joining the girls team are coach Lindsay Davis, standing left, and youth committee head Greg Borja, standing right.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



of defense in the paint, scoring 12 markers. Heartim Williams took care of business outside, hitting two triples, while Butch Sublemente and Rex Yabut combined for 10 points off the bench.

See PIC on Page 26

IT&E keeps unbeaten record

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

IT&E remained perfect in the 2010 MGD/MBFNM 35A Masters Basketball League after edging Ebisuya, 82-79, on Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The victory was the fourth in a row for IT&E, while the loss was first in five games for Ebisuya.

IT&E controlled the game from start until midway in the



fourth quarter before Ebisuya made a late rally and fell short. Free throws from Edsel Mendoza and baskets from Bruce Berline, Gus Palacios, and Ernie Fernandez bailed IT&E out of trouble.

Mendoza hit four free throws in the homestretch and topscored for IT&E with 28 points, while Palacios canned three and ended up with 12 points, matching Fernandez's output. Berline added nine, making five of them in the fourth period.

William Opone led Ebisuya's

See IT&E on Page 26



IT&E's Gus Palacios escapes the defense of two Ebisuya players during their game in the Masters caging on Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL The Lions roared back in the last inning to pull off a sweet come-from-behind victory against the Hustlers in the Senior Division of

the 2010 Saipan Senior League last weekend at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

In the top of the first, the visiting Lions put up two early runs from Arthur Jebehn and Richard Dela Cruz both scored off errors after hitting two-out singles.

Then in the bottom half the Hustlers got a run back from

Jeremy Lizama who hit a one-out single, moved to second after Timothy Rabago's walk, went to third off a wild pitch, and then stole home.

The score remained at 2-1, Lions, until the bottom of the fourth when the Hustlers took the lead.

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